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RUSSELL ERRETT, Editor.

M. P. ROAN, Business Manager.

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The Pittsburgh Commercial.

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VOL. XI. PITTSBURGH, TUESDAY MORNING, DECEMBER 30, 1873. NO. 92.

FIRST EDITION

THE GREAT STRIKE.

A Weakening Among the "Outs."

Many Engineers Willing to Resume Work.

LOCOMOTIVES INJURED AT INDIANAPOLIS.

No Acts of Violence Reported Elsewhere.

Signs of Dissatisfaction in the Chicago Brotherhood.

Crestline.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

CRESTLINE, O., December 29, 1873.

The passenger trains of the Pittsburgh, Fort Wayne and Chicago Railway have moved today without interruption, as usual. The mail train from the east was an hour late, arriving here this evening, delayed simply by reason of the engine not making steam. It was in charge of Joseph Graham, the veteran foreman of the company's shops at Alliance. Out of a force of thirty engineers on the Crestline and Alliance division, who joined the strikers, eighteen have already signified their readiness to return to their engines; and but for the influence of their brethren east of Alliance, it is clearly evident that all engineers at this end of the Eastern Division would, before now, have been at work. Regret is freely expressed that they ever entered on the strike, and a disposition is developing this evening to act independently, and accept their situations while an opportunity yet remains. The officials of the road have met all respectful interviews and communications in a similar manner, and while they have not receded an inch from their original position, their discreet action has doubtless done much to bring about the repentant feeling manifested, which is leading to a speedy resumption of freight trains between here and Pittsburgh. The situation is unchanged between here and Chicago, trains running on time and engineers firm in their opposition to the strike, notwithstanding the immense pressure brought to bear on them. There are no acts of violence to report at any point on this line.

Cincinnati.

CINCINNATI, December 29.—There are no new developments in the railroad strike today. All passenger trains on the Pittsburgh, Cincinnati and St. Louis road went out to-day except an accommodation and the New York night express to-night. All officers capable of running locomotives are doing so. It is hoped that trains will run more regularly to-morrow. The hotel and other business feels the effect of the interruption of railroad communication.

COLUMBUS, December 29.—The railroad authorities here say that the strike must break up before many days, and on the other hand a visit to-night to the rooms of the Brotherhood of Engineers shows them to be as determined as they were last week. They say that Chief Engineer Wilson's order has no effect on them. The worst feature of the trouble here was the discovery last night of destruction on the track of the little Miami road in three places within the city limits. An engine about to leave with a train this evening was found to be out of order. The railroad authorities are attempting to run all their day trains, and got more away to-day than any day since the strike commenced.

Logansport, Ind.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

LOGANSPORT, IND., December 29, 1873.

The 8:20 A. M. mail train left Chicago for Cincinnati this morning on time, under armed guard, and passed Logan all right. An attempt was made to start the 9 A. M. mail east from Logan, but it was discovered that all the engines in the round house had been tampered with. The train was, however, gotten out at 2:50 P. M. under armed guard. The mail train left Richmond at 10 A. M. for Chicago, and while standing at the depot at Logansport, engineer McCullough was struck in the forhead with a stone, making an ugly cut, but not dangerous. He proceeded with the train. The strikers appear to be aware that they are losing ground, and are getting desperate. Several have been arrested. General Daniel McAuley, with a detachment of troops from Indianapolis, is here, and is determined to do his full duty in protecting railroad property and the men disposed to work.

Columbus.

COLUMBUS, December 29.—Governor Noyes received to-day a telegram from Adjutant General Knapp, who went to Dennison to investigate the necessity for the interference of the State authorities to keep the peace among striking engineers and firemen. He reports that on the arrival of a military company from Steubenville order was easily restored, and has been since maintained without difficulty. He anticipates no further trouble. Three trains have arrived to-day in charge of master mechanics and assistants, from Cincinnati, Pittsburgh and Indianapolis.

Indianapolis.

INDIANAPOLIS, December 29.—The engineers' strike continues without much change. Rumors are current of a general strike on all the roads, but cannot be traced to any reliable authority. Last night a party of men entered the Jeffersonville, Madison and Indianapolis Railroad round house, and after threatening the watchman, broke the gauges of all engines in the house, and left. Two of these engines were repaired and ready for service this morning. A large crowd gathered in the Pan Handle yards to-day, but the shops were closed, and a guard armed with Spencer rifles placed in the yard. Bush, who shot engineer Vance night before last, waived an examination this morning, and was committed to jail in default of $10,000 bail.

INDIANAPOLIS, December 29.—There is but little change in railroad matters to-day. On the Columbus division of the Pittsburgh, Cincinnati and St. Louis Railroad one train each way passed over the road. The Jefferson, Madison and Indianapolis road sent out one freight train of twenty-four cars and one passenger train each way. The Indianapolis and Vincinnes road has been more fortunate than either of the others. Nearly all of their day trains are running regularly. The night trains on all striking roads have been temporarily abandoned. At the request of General Macauly, in command of the militia at Logansport, twenty policemen were sent there by the Governor to-night. The current rumor this morning of a general strike on all roads is not believed in railroad circles. The President of the Machinists, and Blacksmiths' Association arrived here to-night from Cleveland. It is supposed that his visit is connected with the engineers' strike. He favors a compromise and deprecates violence. Judge Howland has reduced the bail of Bush, who shot engineer Vance, to $3,000.

Fort Wayne.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

FORT WAYNE, IND., December 29, 1873.

The excitement that has been existing for the last few days regarding the strike, has subsided almost to quiet to-day. Trains on the Pittsburgh, Fort Wayne and Chicago and Wabash roads are all running regularly and on time. No fears are entertained by the officials of any trouble. Rumors are being circulated this afternoon of strikers resuming work on the Eastern Division of the Fort Wayne road. This has had a tendency to restore good feeling among the engineers.

Chicago.

CHICAGO, December 29.—The members of the Brotherhood of Engineers in this city have passed a resolution that they are not disposed to submit to any reduction of the rate of wages they were receiving prior to December first, as that rate was low enough, although it gave general satisfaction, also tendering their sympathy and promising their support to all engineers now opposing, or who may hereafter oppose any reduction of their wages. These resolutions are published and signed by committees from the Illinois Central, Chicago and Alton, Rock Island, Chicago, Burlington and Quincy, Milwaukee and St. Paul and Michigan Central roads.

NEWS SUMMARY.

BY TELEGRAPH.

The legal tenders outstanding yesterday amounted to $377,092,902.

Gen. Sweet, Deputy Commissioner of Internal Revenue, is dangerously ill of pneumonia.

It is announced that the books taken in charge by the customs officers at Boston comprise those only which pertained to the foreign business of Jordan, Marsh & Co., and that free access is to be allowed to them at all proper times. Nothing has been taken that might embarrass transactions of the regular business. The work of examining the accounts of the firm was commenced yesterday morning, and will be prosecuted with all possible dispatch. The examiners are comparing the entries of invoices with those on file at the custom house. There are one thousand or more papers to examine.

A car load of wild animals for the Zoological gardens of Philadelphia arrived at Omaha on Saturday and were forwarded thence yesterday.

Sheriff Ellis, of Cheyenne county, Neb., has been indicted for murder.

The enumeration of school children in Indiana has just been completed, showing 631,149 white and 9,183 colored sch ol children; total 640,332. Twenty-five thousand dollars of Indianapolis city bonds have just been sold at par.

New Patent.

The Great White River Flour is now being made under a new patent and is said to be giving general satisfaction. It is now the leading brand in this market.

EUROPE.

BY THE ATLANTIC CABLE.

Spain.

PROSPECTS OF PRESIDENT CASTELAR.

MADRID, December 29.—It is believed that Castelar will have a majority in the Cortes, and that this is insured to him by the support of Figheiregas.

Herald special.

MADRID, December 29.—The Cortes will meet January 2, when Serrano will be placed at the head of Spanish affairs. England, France, Prussia and Italy are pledged to recognize Serrano as President on the same basis as they have recognized the President of the French Republic. Minister Lagarde has papers ready to seize the opportune moment for recognition. This news was kept secret, but is positive. If the Reds rise to oppose recognition, the Powers are expected to intervene in this matter as well as in the Carlist war.

PREPARATION TO EVACUATE CARTAGENA.

The *Imparcial* says that the insurgents of Cartagena are preparing to fly from the city and are getting a fleet of vessels ready for that purpose.

England.

LLOYD'S NEWSPAPER BURNED OUT.

LONDON, December 29.—The office of Lloyd's weekly London newspaper was destroyed by fire to-day.

Germany.

FREDERICK WILLIAM NOT TO BE MADE REGENT.

LONDON, December 30.—A special to the *Daily Telegraph* from Berlin says that the project to make Crown Prince Frederick William regent has been abandoned in consequence of the improvement in the health of Emperor William.

Marine News.

LONDON, December 29.—The steamships Russia, Greece and Thuringia, have arrived out.

European Markets.

LONDON, December 29—5-20s of '65, 91¾; do '67, 91¾; 10-40s, 92¾; new 5s, 91½; New York Central 99¾; Erie 26¾@26¾; Erie preferred 58¾. Refined petroleum 12¾d; spirits 12d. Turpentine 31s 6d.

PARIS, December 29.—Rentes 58 francs 35 centimes.

FRANKFORT, December 29—5-20s of '62, 97¾.

LIVERPOOL, December 29.—Cotton quiet and steady at 8¾@8¾d; sales 12,000 bales; American 9,- 500 bales; speculation and export 2,000 bales. Breadstuffs quiet. Corn, 38s 8d. Spirits petroleum, 12d. Turpentine, 30s 6d. Hay, 81s. Others unchanged.

THE VIRGINIUS.

Mr. Patterson, of New York, Claims to Own the Vessel—He Condems the Attorney General for Condemning the Ship.

NEW YORK, December 29.—John F. Patterson, of this city, has sent a letter to Secretary Fish, dated the 26th December, declaring he is the registered owner of the steamer Virginius. He protests against the opinion of the Attorney General, by which he and the vessel were condemned on *ex parte* testimony furnished by Spain. He states that the Solicitor of the Treasury gave him a bill of sale of the steamer, whereupon he (Patterson) truly swore that he was the owner, and the government gave her an American register, which has ever since protected her. Any testimony charging perjury on his part is false. He has hitherto kept silence by the advice of counsel, and because he has not been notified or called upon by the government to testify or defend himself in relation to the matter. He requests that a copy of the evidence upon which the Virginius and he were condemned by the Attorney General be sent him, and that he be notified of the time and place for the examination of any other witnesses. A copy of the letter has also been sent to the Attorney General.

THE OSSIPEE ARRIVES WITHOUT THE VIRGINIUS—RUMORS OF THE LATTER HAVING SUNK.

NEW YORK, December 30.—The United States steamer Ossipee has arrived here without the Virginius. It is rumored that the Virginius has sunk.

QUARANTINE LANDING, STATEN ISLAND, December 30, 1:45 A. M.—The United States steamer Ossipee passed Quarantine about 11 o'clock last night. The officer in charge of the She did not stop in Quarantine and could not be boarded. She did not have the Virginius in tow.

NEW YORK, December 30.—The *Tribune* says no tidings can be obtained concerning the Virginius. She can hardly have been left in the lower bay, since the tide in a very way most favorable to towing her in. It seems to be the general opinion here that the Virginius was either cast adrift or accidentally separated from the Ossipee during the terrible storms of the 28th, along the coast. All recent reports have represented her as being in a leaky and generally disabled condition. Experienced mariners express it as their opinion that she would hardly be able to withstand the recent gales which all incoming vessels have reported. Nothing definite can be learned, however, at the hour of going to press.

NEW YORK.

NEW YORK, December 29, 1873.

FRUITS OF A RAID ON A DANCE-HOUSE

Centre street was crowded to-day by idle and curious people, gathered to witness the march to the Tombs and the police court, from the police headquarters, of the two hundred and fifty men and women, boys and girls, arrested last evening, while dancing in the Union Assembly rooms. As the prison pens of the court house are intended for so many prisoners, the magistrate sent for the warden of the Tombs, and on being informed by that officer that he had accommodations for the crowd, at his request sent to prison, pending an investigation of their several cases.

ANXIETY TO SEE THE VIRGINIUS PRISONERS.

The navy yard was visited this morning by a large number of persons anxious to board the Juniata to see the surviving prisoners of the Virginius. Among the applicants were numerous Cubans; but all made the attempt in vain, Admiral Bowen having issued orders that none except authorized United States officers should be allowed either to board or leave the vessel. Unusual strictness was also observed in the requirement of passes to visit the yard, as no one was permitted to approach the docks without a pass from Capt. Chandler. Many passes were applied for and issued, as most of the visitors, when denied permission to board the Juniata, asked at least to see the vessel. Twelve of the Virginius passengers were so prostrated by disease, the result of ill-usage, as to require immediate removal to the Marine Hospital.

DEATH OF A JOURNALIST AND DRAMATIST.

Thaddeus W. Meighan, a well-known journalist, died yesterday, leaving a wife and eight children. He was for several years connected with the *Evening Express*. Besides his connection with journalism, Mr. Meighan had acquired considerable reputation as a play-writer.

THANKS TO THE PRESIDENT.

The survivors, crew and passengers of the steamship Virginius have forwarded a memorial to President Grant, expressing their heartfelt and grateful thanks for the energetic measures taken for their timely rescue and delivery from death, or sentence to the chaingang, or a Spanish prison. Grateful mention is also made of Commander Braine.

LOSS OF THE STEAMSHIP BECKLOW.

The foreign papers contain telegrams from Corrunna and Gibraltar, announcing the total loss of the steamer Becklow, of Newcastle, England; one man only, out of a crew of twenty-three, having been saved.

RECOVERING.

John E. Owens, the comedian, is recovering.

TRIAL OF GRAHAM.

The trial of ex-Senator William M. Graham, late President of the Wallkill National Bank, charged with embezzling $400,000 of the funds of the bank, was commenced this afternoon in the United States Court, before Judge Benedict. A jury was obtained and the court adjourned until to-morrow.

VIRGINIUS PRISONERS LANDED.

The United States District Attorney concluded the investigation of the Virginius prisoners this afternoon, and they were landed and taken in charge by representatives of the Cuban Junta.

BROOKLYN STREET COMMISSIONER SHORT.

The accounts of the Brooklyn Street Commissioner are reported to be fifty-five thousand dollars short.

ARRIVAL.

Arrived, the steamship Great Western from Bristol.

FIRE RECORD.

Planing Mill Burned at Plymouth, Ind.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

PLYMOUTH, IND., December 29, 1873.

This evening at about half-past six o'clock, a fire broke out in the large planing mill owned by N. D. Lovely, and owing to a high wind blowing at the time, the efforts of the fire department were useless except to prevent the buildings near by from being destroyed. The fire was caused by a defective flue. The loss is unknown.

The Produce Trade of Chicago.

CHICAGO, December 29.—A review of the produce trade of Chicago for the past year, published this morning, shows the receipts of grain during the year to have been 96,731,598 bushels; shipments, 91,035,703 bushels. The receipts of hogs amounted to 4,350,000 head; of cattle, 765,000; of sheep, 300,000; of lumber, 1,061,993,000 feet. The total value of all the produce received during the year is in round numbers two hundred and forty million dollars.

No Flour Coming In,

owing to the stoppage of all freight trains from the West. Would advise my customers to send in their orders immediately for the great White River flour and other brands. T. C. Jenkins, Checkered Front.

SECOND EDITION.

WASHINGTON.

THE MISSION TO MADRID.

Mr. Cushing to Serve During the Emergency Only.

Spain Will Demand the Restitution of the Virginius.

The Attorney General's Extraordinary Opinion.

The Railroad War Still Raging.

Restoration of Franking Privilege Opposed by Mr. Cresswell.

THE EDGAR STEWART TO BE DETAINED.

Expenditures on Public Buildings.

Defects in Legislation on the Subject.

Mr. Cessna's Chorpenaing Claim

His Position in the Matter.

Appropriations for the Indian Service.

COST OF THE PEACE POLICY.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, D. C., December 29, 1873.

Mr. Cushing and the Mission to Spain.

Caleb Cushing, whose name will be sent to the Senate on Monday for confirmation as Minister to Spain, and which, it is conceded on all hands, will be confirmed, is busily engaged in arranging his business so as to admit of an early departure for Madrid. It is understood that he has agreed to serve in the present emergency only, and as soon as the urgency of his presence at Madrid has ceased, he will return. In a conversation with your correspondent at the time of the capture of the Virginius, Mr. Cushing stated his views on the subject, remarking that it was extremely necessary for the government to first carefully investigate the character of the Virginius and her right to carry the flag, before demanding her surrender. His reasons in full were given in these dispatches at the time. It now appears from the decision of the Attorney General, that the Secretary of State overlooked this important consideration, and hence the government has been placed in a very embarrassing position, though there is no danger of a war.

Spain Will Demand the Surrender of the Virginius.

Information received here points very conclusively to the fact that Spain will make a demand for the restitution of the Virginius and damages. General Cushing does not believe Spain could bring the matter to arbitration under the principles which governed the tribunal at Geneva, for the reason that vessels flying the flag of the late Confederate service committed depredations on our commerce, which has not been the case in vessels from American ports aiding the cause of Cuba. The claim for consequential damages was ruled out at Geneva.

An Awkward Predicament.

The extraordinary decision of the Attorney General on documents which it took but twelve days to bring together, places us at a great disadvantage in any sort of litigation; and it is hoped that the surrender of the vessel by us to Spain would justify her in demanding an apology, at least. If possible to extricate us from our present position in the country, that General Cushing will be retained by General Cushing. In diplomatic quarters as well as in official, the progress of this question is watched with great interest.

The Railroad War

continues. The Baltimore and Ohio road having made a reduction of fares, the Pennsylvania Central to-day announced a similar reduction. The fare to Pittsburgh is now down to five dollars, while all points West rates are in the same proportion.

Cresswell Against the Restoration of the Franking Privilege.

The Postmaster General is preparing a statement against the restoration of the franking privilege. He will show that the necessity for the payment of the mails by weight, instead of bulk, which would require payment on public documents by the pound, which would foot up, he says, millions.

The Edgar Stewart to be Detained.

Orders have been sent to Baltimore to prevent the sailing of the alleged Cuban filibuster, Edgar Stewart, unless she can furnish very conclusive evidence of her ultimate mission.

Public Buildings.

Shortly before the recess of Congress Mr. Duell, of New York, secured the passage of a resolution directing the Committee on Expenditures on Public Buildings to inquire, first, as to the condition and management of the appropriations for the erection of public buildings; second, how the money had been disbursed in accordance with law; and third, what retrenchment could be made in the erection of public buildings at the next session of the public service. This information is desired primarily for the use of the committee, and it will probably determine how and in what manner appropriations for public buildings shall be made in the future. It is asserted that the depletion of the treasury is due in a great measure to the erection of so many public buildings in various parts of the country, and while it is undeniable that the government should own, rather than rent its public buildings, many members are of the opinion that with such large expenditures as are required by the spirit of the proceedings. Rear Admiral Goodrich brought up the documents, some of them several years old and quite worn by the useless service they had previously performed. Those the judge-advocate-general returned to the Secretary of State. The latter requested the new chuckling Spaniard to leave the papers with him till morning. A new light seemed to dawn upon the Spaniard that time is required for him to consult the law officer of the government. The Attorney General's office is overwhelmed with the musty tomes of the law and finds an act of 1792 which seems to fit the case, upon which he could found a claim to restore the vessel, in case it is in which a foreigner is directly or indirectly interested, is subject to a United States forfeiture if one is obtained by a false oath as to the point, and the fact is that the vessel is owned or partly owned by Cubans, who cannot be deemed a vessel of the United States or entitled to the benefits or privileges appertaining to such vessels.

If the Attorney General had examined a little further he might have found instances in practice directly contrary to the deductions he makes. A case was tried before the District, Circuit and Supreme Courts of the United States—John Marshall was Chief Justice, and it was decided in every instance against this point taken by the Attorney General. The court claimed that it was its duty to protect the American citizen, and it had nothing to do with the foreign claims upon the vessel. That the vessel was in the name of a citizen unquestion-ably a citizen of the United States; that the interested party in his interest was in the majority, that that was sufficient to cover him in his legal ownership. As it was not for the court to decide as to the equities between the owners, so long as there was nothing illegal in its possession, and that the American could not dictate how spend the money from a fellow citizen if it thought proper, but that that was not a matter for the court to decide. In China it is a common matter for vessels to carry the American flag when their owners belong to sects of China, rather, under the laws of the Empire, not being permitted to own foreign built vessels. In these cases the vessel is entered in the name of a citizen of the United States, carries American papers, clears as an American vessel, while the Chinaman holds a mortgage for the full value of the vessel to secure his ownership.

With these and a score of other cases which will doubtless be brought up in the trial of the Virginius in New York, it is extremely doubtful whether we will be able to get anything. The vessel was registered in New York on September 26, 1870, in the name of Patterson, a naturalized citizen, who paid funds came from certain Cuban citizens in New York. If justice, like religion, is a matter of spirit, the course of the government according to the precedents of the past, will be knocked in the head, and then a tale will unfold which will make the first scene in the Virginius controversy appear exceeding small.

The fact which will most need explanation is why the Secretary of State neglected to investigate the protests of Sp-in made two years ago, or any even during the past six months. The Secretary of State doubtless can give his reasons, but he cannot do it by denying the existence of the protests, for an unaccountable juxtaposition will be the chain of facts corroborative of the Spanish side, as follows: The protocol was signed November 29th, 1873, the letter of the Secretary of State to the Attorney General, making his opinion, was written December 11th, 1873. The Attorney General speaks of that betraying communication as "submitting to him a large number of documents and depositions." Now the Secretary of State could not have had any documents and depositions which could have been used in condemning the vessel as illegally in possession of the flag, for that would cast upon him a grave responsibility instead of having been the means of an expenditure of six or eight millions of dollars on the navy when the government almost could be the equal, not of bringing the nation to the verge of a war. It hence follows that the documents and depositions were supplied by Re-r Admiral Poor, and he must have had them on hand, as it would not be in the power of natural means for him to have procured them in the brief space of twelve days—the time between the date of the protocol and the letter of the Secretary of State. It is unquestioned that some of these are the papers which were called to the attention of the Secretary two years ago, and the first, those of more recent date. They seem to have attained to become invested with a wonderful virtue. The salute to the flag has been quietly waived, and the disclaimer is yet in the distance.

Unfortunate for us we have the Virginius on our hands and her trial will be looked forward to with unfortunate interest by all nations, for they are thoroughly conversant with maritime and international law that the Secretary of State will not be able to extricate himself from the Virginius dilemma by making a scapegoat of Patterson.

Great pre-rations are being made in official and unofficial circles for the observance of New Year's day. The day is universally kept at the Federal capital by all the citizens, and there is a general suspension of business.

As usual, there will be a formal reception at the President's house. In order to prevent confusion, the President will receive in the following order:

At 11 o'clock A M., the members of the Cabinet and foreign Ministers.

At 11:20 A M., the Judges of the Supreme Court of the United States, Senators and Representatives in Congress, the Governor of the District of Columbia and wife, the Judges of the Courts of the District of Columbia and of the Court of Claims.

At 12 M., the officers of the Army and Navy.

At 12:30, the Assistant Secretaries of Departments, the Assistant Postmaster General, the Solicitor General and Assistant Attorney General and the heads of the several bureaus.

At 1:45 P M., the Associated Soldiers of the War of 1812 and members of the Oldest Inhabitants' Association of the District of Columbia.

The reception of citizens will commence at 1 P M. (at which time the gates of the inclosure will be opened), and will terminate at 2 P. M.

DEB. R. K.

Caleb Cushing

is busily engaged settling up his affairs preparatory to leaving for Madrid. He has received a number of complimentary telegrams on his appointment. A friend remarked to him that he was surprised that a man at his time of life should think of crossing the ocean, when Mr. Cushing inquired if an old man was not as safe as a baby.

Secretary Fish

returned to-night from New York.

WASHINGTON, D. C., December 29, 1873.

THE DISPOSITION TO BE MADE OF THE VIRGINIUS.

It has been ascertained from official sources that on the arrival of the Virginius at New York she will be seized by the Collector of the port and libelled by the District Attorney, in accordance with instructions. If, on judicial investigation, it be shown the vessel had her register obtained by fraud, she will be sold, and the proceeds of the sale paid to the United States. Spain can make claim to the vessel, but if she should it is positively certain our government would not entertain such claims. The report that the Spanish government requires of the United States the restoration of the Virginius and the payment of the indemnity is not believed in official quarters, no authentic information having been received here to that effect; and besides, such a requisition would be contrary to the terms of the protocol between the two nations. The reference of the Spanish affidavits and other papers by the President to the Attorney General, of known only to those present and to Secretary Fish, the matter having been kept perfectly secret until the opinion of the Attorney General was delivered to the last named gentleman on the day of its date, namely, the 17th inst. The first intimation of such an opinion was furnished the press four days later, and the full text obtained the next day from the Department of Justice.

PORTUGAL PROHIBITS THE COOLIE TRADE.

The Department of State has received a telegram from the Consul at Hong-Kong announcing that the King of Portugal had, by proclamation, prohibited the coolie trade at Macao, and closed the barracoons.

AN ERRONEOUS STATEMENT.

It was incorrectly stated, in last night's dispatches, that Assistant Attorney General Hill was before the Committee on Judiciary in connection with the nomination of George H. Williams to be Chief Justice. Hill had no communication whatever with the committee on that subject.

The Trial of the Virginius—An Unpromising Outlook in the Courts—Review of the Cases—The Constitutional Question—Origin of a Diplomatic Controversy with Spain—The Department of State Warned—The Legal Aspect of the Question—The Secretary of State Taken to New York—The Opinion of the Attorney General—Early Conflicting Precedents—A Dilemma—An Expansion Feeder—A Curious Chain of Facts—New Year's at the National Capital.

Special Correspondence of the Pittsburgh Commercial.

WASHINGTON, D. C., December 29, 1873.

The settlement of the Virginius affair bears every promise of being more complicated and questionable, as far as the United States are concerned, than could possibly have been anticipated when our government so boldly stepped forward as the champion of her nationality and the sacred character of her flag. The excitement throughout the country when the news came that the vessel had been captured on the high seas by a Spanish cruiser was the natural consequence of the endorsement which the government had previously several times given of her nationality and of her right to carry the flag. Recent events, however, do not harmonize with the earlier stages of the controversy. The trial of the vessel and her owner in New York, it is to be feared, will not preclude a very disagreeable contest with Spain. In diplomatic circles the run of opinion, based on facts and circumstances, is in favor of Spain, and it is declared that before a court of arbitration the United States would not be able to make out a case for the affair, as it at present stands before the world. It now appears conclusively that the Department of State only two years ago was repeatedly advised of the Virginius, that documents will be soon submitted out in ports of the United States and taken with them on the way to Cuba, for the purpose of aiding an insurrection on Spanish soil. The operations of the Virginius were also duly and largely reported by the Spanish consul at the Department of State with similar lack of notice, and what is more, for one of the cases in which the authorities would seem, from the facts now presented, to have been under the special patronage of that department, criminal acts of Americans were time and again not only warned to keep within the law, but were threatened with summary blowing out of the water, if they did not heed the warning. She was escorted out of harbors and conveyed on the high seas or American waters, in the face of Spanish cruisers. In part she departed from the ports at the American consulate, and her clearance was on American papers signed by the Consul and sealed with the seal of the United States. The documents and depositions were supplied by Rear Admiral Poor, and he must have had them on hand, as it would not be in the power of natural means for him to have procured them in the brief space of twelve days—the time between the date of the protocol and the letter of the Secretary of State. It is unquestioned that some of these are the papers which were called to the attention of the Secretary two years ago, and the first, those of more recent date. They seem to have attained to become invested with a wonderful virtue. The salute to the flag has been quietly waived, and the disclaimer is yet in the distance.

Unfortunate for us we have the Virginius on our hands and her trial will be looked forward to with unfortunate interest by all nations, for they are thoroughly conversant with maritime and international law that the Secretary of State will not be able to extricate himself from the Virginius dilemma by making a scapegoat of Patterson.

Great pre-rations are being made in official and unofficial circles for the observance of New Year's day. The day is universally kept at the Federal capital by all the citizens, and there is a general suspension of business.

As usual, there will be a formal reception at the President's house. In order to prevent confusion, the President will receive in the following order:

At 11 o'clock A M., the members of the Cabinet and foreign Ministers.

At 11:20 A M., the Judges of the Supreme Court of the United States, Senators and Representatives in Congress, the Governor of the District of Columbia

WASHINGTON, PA.

Probable Fatal Accident—The Browsos Anniversary.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, PA., December 29, 1873.

To-day a man named Dillinger, engaged in building telegraph lines, while crossing a bridge about thirty feet high, was struck by a band-car and thrown to the ground, inflicting serious if not fatal injuries.

Dr. Brownson's anniversary was further celebrated last evening, by an address from Rev. Samuel F. Wilson, of Allegheny City; Hon. John H. Ewing and others will deliver addresses this evening.

MILWAUKEE.

Annual Statistics—Increase of Population—Building Improvements—Deaths and Arrests.

MILWAUKEE, December 29.—The annual statistics of the city of Milwaukee show a considerable increase in her population, which is estimated at one hundred and four thousand. The improvements in the way of building foot up three and a half million, and articles of manufacture twenty-seven million dollars. Losses by fire amounted to $300 000. Deaths, two thousand. Arrests, eighteen thousand.

CRIMES.

Murderer Remanded for Sentence.

CLEVELAND, December 29.—The motion for a new trial in the case of Stephen Hood, convicted of murder in the first degree, was to-day overruled and the prisoner remanded for sentence.

POLITICAL.

State.

The Bradford *Reporter*, which was one of the most earnest supporters of the new Constitution, wants that instrument amended even before it has had a trial. The *Reporter* says: "Among the most serious faults of the new instrument may be mentioned the perulcious and danger us doctrine of that mischievous man, C. R. Buckalew, by which the majority are prevented from ruling and which declares that a certain portion of the voters cannot express their preference for or against some of our rulers. Limited voting is just on a par with 'cumulative voting,' which was applied to the election of borough councilmen in this State some years ago, and unanimously condemned as false in theory and unsafe in practice, after two years' experience, and repealed without opposition by the Legislature. The clause requiring that the ballot shall also subversive of the secret ballot, and will give corporations, and wealthy men employing large numbers of laborers, a dangerous power in controlling the ballots of employees. The theory of this government from the beginning has been that every voter could express his preference at the ballot box, by writing or printed vote, without having his action questioned by any one. Under this new system, the employee who votes contrary to the wishes of his employer will be likely to be found out. The old secret ballot should be restored. There are other objectionable features which should be carefully examined and amended at once."

The Altoona *Sun* learns that the friends of Edgar Kine, editor of the *Radical*, in that city will present the name of that gentleman as a candidate for the position of Lieutenant Governor of this State—an office provided for under the new Constitution.

The Scranton *Republican* says: "We present for the Republican nomination for Judge of the Supreme Court, Hon. John N. Winchop, of Ketchum, of Wilkesbarre, and in doing this we realize that we need say nothing in commendation of the man. Throughout the State he is well known to the intelligent men of both parties as distinguished for ability and legal attainments."

General.

A New Jersey correspondent of the Philadelphia *Age* brings forward, in a very brief note, the names of Governor Parker, of New Jersey, and James Thompson and Governor Hendricks, of Indiana, for the Democratic nomination for President in 1876.

The Virginia journals praise the old fashioned Jeffersonian simplicity of Governor elect Kemper, who will have no nonsense at his coming inauguration. He proposes to quietly take the oath of office and enter upon his duties.

It is a little remarkable that in almost every instance where gentlemen, styling themselves Liberals and so-called reformers of political dishonesty of the present day, have secured public positions through the influence found waiting in the trust confided in them.

Political parties in New Hampshire are beginning to "ring out the changes" for the March election. Samuel N. Bell is proposed as the Democratic and Charles H. Bell as the Republican candidate for Governor. The Manchester *Post* thinks this would be putting both parties on their mettle.

Governor Dix has a duty to perform which he will not probably long delay. There is a vacancy in the Assembly from the Twenty-first district of New York; for when a member of Assembly is "convicted of an infamous crime," it is the duty of the judge before whom the conviction was had to notify the Governor of the fact, when "the Governor shall give notice of the fact to the officer whose duty it may be by law to order or give notice of an election to supply the vacancy."

In a circular sent all over the country the New York *World* appeals to Democrats to increase its circulation declaring that "Democratic family newspapers make Democratic converts, who cast Democratic votes." This is also a warning to Republicans. Let Republicans remember that Republican newspapers make Republican converts, who cast Republican votes. The *World's* circular declares that the results of last fall's elections would be impossible the election of a Democratic Congress in 1874—a Democratic president in 1876.

It affords us much pleasure to announce that Messrs. Fisk & Hatch, bankers, who were forced by the outbreak of the panic in September to suspend their payments, to-day resumed business, after a most honorable and satisfactory settlement with their creditors, dollar for dollar. The extensions granted, we have no doubt, can and will be promptly met. Their resumption on the eve of this happy Christmas season may be hailed by their large circle of friends as the auspicious harbinger of renewed usefulness to the banking and railroad interests of the country with which they have for ten years been so conspicuously identified in the city of New York, and of recovered fortunes to themselves.

Mr. Edward W. Clark, of Philadelphia, the President of the Lehigh Coal and Navigation Company, is to be heartily congratulated on the success of his recent negotiation with the Central of New Jersey. The large sale of coal lands placed this company on the best financial footing, and has raised the market value of the stock from 40 per cent., at which it was pulled at the extreme of the panic, to 80@83 per cent., as quoted to-day. Mr. Clark is the head of the old banking house in Philadelphia of Messrs. E. W. Clark & Co., who were compelled to suspend, and wholly unforeseen suspension of payments in September, but who have since promptly and successfully resumed business.—*N. Y. Times.*

A California agriculturist has engaged a colony of Neapolitan farmers, fresh from Italy, to cultivate a portion of Grand Island, in that State. Several other large parties are on their way from Southern Italy to settle on the Pacific coast.

Demand for Labor.

Several meetings are reported as having been held on the South Side, largely attended by persons out of employment, at which threatening speeches were made and even violence hinted at. Last evening one of these meetings was held with a Mr. Frick as President, Mr. Neumann as Vice President, and Mr. Falls as Secretary.

The principal speakers were Messrs. Bruck and Frick, who advised that a demand be made upon the city government for work.

It was resolved to form labor organizations in each ward, and that a combined effort be made to get employment from the city.

A Pleasant Occasion.

On Saturday evening a large meeting of our Welsh fellow-citizens was held at Dr. Thomas' church, Ross street, to hear an address from Mr. Aneurin Jones, a distinguished architect of New York city. Esquire H. J. Thomas presided at the meeting and at its adjournment a large number of our prominent Welsh citizens attended a supper given at Mrs. Morgan's, Sixth street, in honor of the guest. The affair was a most pleasant one and was enjoyed by all.

Don't Fail to Try

Marvin & Co's Ginger Fruit Cake, the newest and most elegant invention in the cake line. All leading grocers keep them, and they can be had at the manufactory, 91 and 93 Liberty street. They are soft and delicious, and bid to become very popular on all well furnished tables.

STATE NEWS

The writer of "Editorial Etchings" in the Norristown *Herald* keeps his eagle eye on society.—He states that "a much ruffled young lady, with four button kid gloves, refused to go out and take her music lessons last Saturday, because her mother had neglected to darn a hole in her stocking, just where it peeped over the edge of her boot."

The Easton *Free Press* says: "Iron ore in large quantities and of a superior quality has been found on the farm owned by Mr. John Edelman, in Palmer township, about three miles west of this place. Mr. Edelman's lands adjoin those of our townsman, M. H. Jones. A shaft is being sunk by one of Mr. Edelman's sons, and the prospects are that the ore is inexhaustible."

Mrs. Henry Johnston, of Reamstown, Lancaster county, fell dead on Christmas eve, while returning from church. Her disease was dropsy of the heart.

Mrs. Scott-Siddons will give a reading in Lancaster this evening.

A man named Hunt was killed in Shrewsbury township, Lycoming county, last week, by being struck by a falling tree.

An opera company refused to perform before a two

The Daily Commercial.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 30, 1873.

MEMORANDUM for Congressmen with regard to their own and the lobbyists designs on the National Treasury: There are too many hogs, and too little fodder.

"WILL the People accept Shams for Reform?"—*Bourbon Paper.*

Take a look at the popular vote for the new Constitution of this State—reflect upon the humiliating admissions of the framers of that instrument concerning its "ridiculously inconsistent provisions"—and then judge for yourself.

A NEW YORK Democratic contemporary refers to the opening of a quarry of "elastic" stone in North Carolina, and suggests that "it be utilized in the construction of a new treasury building." We beg to amend the proposition by recommending that it be employed as a substitute for conscience in the case of the Democratic back-paysters.

IN accordance with our rule to give to all our friends the right to be heard through our columns, we publish to-day a communication recommending GEORGE V. LAWRENCE, of Washington county, for Lieutenant Governor; but we wish it distinctly understood that, in giving place to such communications, we are not to be regarded as endorsing them.

"HERE," caustically observes the Democratic St. Louis *Republican*, "is an earnestness of the future uselessness of the Democracy. They seem to go on the assumption that whatever is done, the Republican party will be responsible for it." Of course they do; and thus we get another illustration of the wonderful all-inclusiveness of the utterances of the myriad-minded SHAKESPEARE: "Thou can'st not say I did it."

THE New York *World* is publishing a series of double-leaded arguments to prove that the protective tariff is the source of all our earthly troubles, including the Tammany ring frauds, the Modoc war, the Virginius massacre, the escape of GENET, the loss of the Ville du Havre, the prevalence of fogs, strikes, railroad collisions, cholera, drunkenness, financial disturbances, visits from mothers-in-law, and every other description of evil that stalks abroad on the earth.

A CERTAIN Bourbon Member of Congress, who recently left his seat as soon as a colored Representative began to address the House, is said to be a disciple of DARWIN, holding that the human species had its origin in the monkey or ape. This, however, by no means excuses his discourtesy on that occasion. The latter, indeed, goes far to prove that men may breed backward as well as forward; and we certainly fail to see wherein one who is developing downward, has any right to claim superiority over another whose processes of evolution are in an exactly opposite direction.

WHEN Congress reassembles, it is to be hoped we shall have no more of the disgraceful personal bickerings, wrangles, devices and subterfuges which have thus far consumed so large a portion of the time of the House. Unless members are bent on committing political hari-kari, let them settle down to the consideration of the legitimate business of the country, demanding, as it does, prompt and thorough attention. If they are sostrongly afflicted with the *cacoethes loquendi* that they cannot possibly keep their tongues from wagging, at least let it be seen to that they wag in silence.

THE financial situation continues to improve, the weekly statement of the New York banks being particularly encouraging in the evidence which it affords of returning strength. These institutions now hold the large sum of $23,514,300 in gold—an increase since last week of $1,526,400; and of deposits $105,152,000—an increase of $1,035,000. The outstanding loans are $290,000,000, and the legal tenders in hand amount to $44,964,000. The total reserve is $68,178,200, and the total liabilities $222,308,200. The 25 per cent. reserve being $55,577,050, the excess over the same is $12,601,250, showing a gain since last week of $1,359,125. The indications are that after the beginning of the New Year money will be still easier than at present.

BIGNESS costs more than greatness. The bonded and floating debt of Chicago has been increased since 1869 by eighty-eight per cent., or from $8,189,371 to $15,393,332. The expenditures for four years have amounted to $25,500,000. In addition to this, the treasury of the city will be absolutely empty on the first of January, while the debt will be considerably over a million dollars. The city's hands are tied, too, for it cannot issue bonds, and the collection of the next tax levy cannot be enforced for six months. Add to this that the Controller is ineffective through illness and that the Mayor is quarreling with his council, and the statistics which yesterday's *Post* presents of "the continued and rapid growth of the city's general trade," will not appear so exceedingly extraordinary, after all.

IS CONGRESS a mere menagerie of moral cowards? It would almost seem so, from the fact that, in making up the biographical sketches of its members for the Congressional Directory, it has been developed that, while about forty-hold military or civil offices in the late Confederacy—also, that a considerable number, especially from the South, were connected with the Freedmen's Bureau—and while the Confederates have authorized a full statement of their official relations with the rebellion, yet those who held positions in the Freedmen's Bureau have, without exception, indicated a desire that no mention should be made thereof. Gentlemen, there is, in a certain Book, a certain passage which reads something like this: "He who is ashamed of Me, of him also shall my Father be ashamed." Do any of you happen to remember it?

SOME weeks ago the Memphis *Avalanche* took us severely to task for inadvertently appropriating, without acknowledgment of their source, one or two of its ordinary news items. Of course, we meekly apologized for the inexcusable neglect; and whenever, since then, we have had occasion to "convey" a paragraph from the columns of the *Avalanche* to those of this paper, we have taken good care so to change its features that its own father would fail to recognize it. This has been done by simply disguising it in grammatical language. Hence it is to be hoped that when our sensitive contemporary shall next have occasion to invest its editorial columns with vigor and interest by reprinting, *verbatim et literatim*, our articles as its own—see COMMERCIAL of December 22, and *Avalanche* of December 25—it will, at least, have the ordinary fairness to state that matters between us are at length settled and squared.

SOME of the Southern papers profess to think it most unfortunate to the harmony of society in that section that the Civil Rights bill has been brought again before Congress, because there is at present better feeling between the races than at any time since the close of the war, they say that if the bill is passed it will engender hostility again and defeat the object for which it is intended. Why, pray? If the colored people of the Southern States are to be compelled to tarry for the recognition of their rights as men and citizens until the whites of that quarter shall see fit to accord them, they may wait until the crack of doom for the realization of their abeyant hopes. The inauguration of a "better feeling" between the races is a good sign, and right heartily do we welcome its advent. That which is needed, however, is justice, not sentiment—conscience, not mere sympathetic impressibility—direct accountability, not simply vague humanitarian impulses.

A SOMEWHAT important decision was on Friday rendered by the Supreme Court of New York, in regard to the liability to taxation of foreign banking capital used in New York city. Several Canadian monetary corporations having agencies in that city were assessed on the capital employed, by the Commissioners of Taxes and Assessments. An appeal was taken, not from the amounts fixed by the commissioners, but on the ground that under the act of 1851 they were wholly exonerated from taxation, as well as on the general common law ground that personal property has its location where its owner resides. The court, in rendering the decision, put the case in a nutshell in saying that, as the money is used in this country for business purposes, and receives the same protection from the laws as does home capital, so it should pay its share of the expenses of government. Judgment was, therefore directed for the Tax Commissioners.

THAT wonderful free trade statistician, ALEXANDER DELMAR, maintains that the utmost capacity of any population to consume grain in the form of food is eight to ten bushels per capita per annum, and says that the grain product of the commercial world amounts to eighteen bushels per head, giving an excess of supply which necessarily makes agriculture unprofitable. "If this," exclaims he, "does not demonstrate over-supply, political economy is a valueless science, and observation in matters relating to breadstuffs must go for nothing." Just so; and now, perhaps, this statistical prodigy will have the goodness to enlighten an anxious world as to what becomes of the immense breadstuff surplus whose existence, somewhere, his figures so incontrovertibly establishes. And how does it come about that Bengal has starving millions, and that Europe requires seventy-four million bushels of wheat from this country to supply the hungry mouths of its people, until its next year's crop is harvested? "So much the worse for the facts," replied TALLEYRAND, when shown that they conflicted fatally with one of his pet theories of political science. DELMAR has probably made the deft Frenchman his model.

THE LEGISLATURE UNDER THE NEW CONSTITUTION.

The following calculation shows the number of representatives in the House to which each county will be entitled under the new Constitution. The computation is based on the census of 1870:

Counties.	Pop.	Rep.	Counties.	Pop.	Rep.
Adams	30,378	1	Juniata	15,090	1
Allegheny	262,204	14	Lancaster	121,340	6
Armstrong	26,382	1	Lawrence	27,493	2
Beaver	33,140	2	Lebanon	24,695	2
Bedford	29,635	2	Lehigh	56,196	3
Berks	116,701	6	Luzerne	156,255	9
Blair	28,851	2	Lycoming	47,646	3
Bradford	43,394	2	M'Kean	8,825	1
Bucks	64,396	4	Mercer	49,971	3
Butler	36,510	2	Mifflin	17,598	1
Cambria	36,569	2	Monroe	18,342	1
Cameron	4 778	—	Montgomery	81,202	5
Carbon	18 141	1	Montour	18,344	1
Centre	34,418	2	Northampton	51,495	3
Chester	77,805	4	Northumberland	41,444	2
Clarion	26,837	2	Perry	25,447	1
Clearfield	25,741	1	Philadelphia	674,022	38
Clinton	23,911	1	Pike	8,456	1
Columbia	28,766	2	Potter	13,995	1
Crawford	48,884	3	Schuylkill	116,428	6
Cumberland	43,912	2	Snyder	15,646	1
Dauphin	66,740	4	Somerset	28,285	2
Delaware	39,403	2	Sullivan	6,191	1
Forest	4,888	—	Susquehanna	37,949	2
Erie	65,918	4	Tioga	40,697	2
Fayette	43,284	2	Union	15,505	1
Franklin	45,365	3	Venango	27,925	2
Fulton	9,066	1	Warren	24,897	2
Greene	25,887	2	Washington	48,483	3
Huntingdon	31,251	2	Wayne	25,108	2
Indiana	38,276	2	Westmoreland	58,719	3
Jefferson	21,656	1	Wyoming	14,085	1
			York	76,134	4
				84	75

Population of the State, according to the census of 1870, 3,521,991. Ratio on which representation is based, 17,609; half ratio, 8,804. Number of Representatives, 201.

According to the Constitution, Allegheny, Berks, Lancaster, Luzerne, Philadelphia and Schuylkill may be divided into separate districts, Art. 2, Sec. 17, providing that "every city entitled to four representatives, and every county containing more than 100,000 inhabitants," may be so divided.

Philadelphia and Pittsburgh being the only cities entitled to more than four representatives are the only ones that can be divided in that way, and the six counties we have enumerated are the only counties that can be divided.

Wilkesbarre, in Luzerne county, will be entitled to one member, Scranton, in the same county, to two, and the county may otherwise be subdivided. The city of Lancaster will be entitled to one member, the city of Reading in Berks, to two, Allegheny City to three, and the city of Pittsburgh to seven.

As to the probable political results of this new arrangement, the following guess is submitted as a fair one, based on the vote of the last three years. This table, it will be noted, does not include Philadelphia:

	Rep.	Dem.		Rep.	Dem.
Adams	—	1	Lancaster	5	—
Allegheny	11	5	Lawrence	2	1
Armstrong	2	—	Lebanon	2	—
Beaver	2	—	Lehigh	—	3
Bedford	—	2	Luzerne	4	5
Berks	—	3	Lycoming	3	—
Blair	2	—	M'Kean	1	—
Bradford	3	—	Mercer	3	—
Bucks	4	—	Mifflin	1	1
Butler	2	—	Montgomery	—	5
Cambria	—	2	Monroe	—	1
Cameron	1	—	Montour	—	1
Carbon	—	1	Northampton	—	3
Chester	4	—	Northumberland	—	2
Centre	—	1	Perry	1	—
Clarion	1	—	Pike	1	—
Clearfield	—	1	Potter	1	—
Clinton	—	1	Schuylkill	3	3
Columbia	2	—	Snyder	1	—
Crawford	4	—	Somerset	2	—
Cumberland	1	1	Sullivan	—	1
Dauphin	3	—	Susquehanna	2	—
Delaware	2	—	Tioga	2	—
Elk	—	1	Union	1	—
Erie	4	—	Venango	3	—
Fayette	—	2	Warren	1	—
Forest	1	—	Washington	—	3
Franklin	3	—	Wayne	—	2
Fulton	—	1	Westmoreland	3	3
Greene	—	1	Wyoming	—	1
Huntingdon	2	—	York	—	4
Indiana	2	—			
Jefferson	1	—		81	75
Juniata	—	1			

This would require the Republicans to carry seventeen of the thirty-eight members in Philadelphia to secure the House, even by the small majority of two, and twenty of that number to give them a working majority in the House.

It is just possible, of course, to carve out a district in Berks that may elect Republican representatives, and the Republicans would have an even chance of carrying Washington, Bucks, Montgomery, Carbon and Northumberland; but then they would stand an equal chance of losing Franklin, Perry, Cameron, Forest, Butler, Huntingdon, Jefferson, M'Kean and Mifflin, so that the chances would rather lie against their being able to carry eighty-four members outside of Philadelphia, than in their favor.

The city of Allegheny is entitled to only three members, and cannot be divided; but Pittsburgh is entitled to seven, and may be divided into any number of districts, from two to seven. The county, outside the two cities, will be entitled to four members, and may be cut up into four districts, or left solid in one. The latter seems to us the most preferable.

It will be seen, according to these figures that, so far as the apportionment for the House is concerned the Legislature will have nothing to do except to divide the six counties we have named, and which contain over 100,000 inhabitants, and it is to be presumed that the representatives from those six counties will severally be able to suggest such a division of their respective counties as will be generally satisfactory.

TRANSMISSION OF NEWS IN FRANCE

France with reason or without has long claimed to be the centre of civilization, and no foreigner questions that the French people are entitled to rank very high as cultivators of the arts and sciences. It is, therefore, at first difficult to believe, and, when believed, suprising how very imperfectly the French people appreciate the importance of the rapid and safe transmission of intelligence or what is called news in the most comprehensive sense of the word. French statesmen seem to be only beginning to get over and lay aside the ancient, effete idea that the postoffice, instead of being a mighty instrument of national development and prosperity, is or ought to be chiefly a source of revenue to the government. For many years, through the prevalence of this mistaken notion, the postal relations between France and the United States have been in the most unsatisfactory condition. To merchants on both sides of the water the want of some well contrived postal arrangement between the two governments has been a constant source of loss and trouble, while Frenchmen living in this country have never ceased to complain of the apparent indifference of their rulers to the great interest. In all these formal complaints we have seen, the entire blame has been thrown upon the French side, the reasonableness and readiness of the American government to come to terms being freely admitted. When M. DE NOAILLES was appointed Minister at Washington, he was fully expected soon to remove the grievance, but it still exists, and a Paris dispatch of December 20 stated that, at length, many members of the Assembly had just called attention to the subject and had earnestly urged the government to hasten the conclusion of a postal convention with the United States, "the actual situation being prejudicial to French commerce and intolerable." In reply the Minister of Finance said that the government sincerely desires to reconcile the interests of the two countries, and hopes soon to arrive at an understanding. Commenting on the dispatch the *Courrier des Etats Unis* hopes for a satisfactory result, but not with too much confidence.

In connection with this topic the fact mentioned elsewhere by the same paper is significant that the journals of Paris depend upon pigeons to receive for their morning issues the proceedings of the Assembly at Versailles, ten miles distant. Think of Baltimore or Pittsburgh or New York, connected with Washington by telegraph, having to depend upon some such resource for the acts of Congress. But in France it seems that nobody of less dignity than a minister or an ambassador is permitted to use the telegraph for the transmission of news. And yet, perhaps, there is no other country in which newspapers have on occasions exerted more influence or in which journalists have performed more important parts in politics.

Returning for a moment to the pigeons, we may say that between Versailles and Paris they do their work well. By crossing breeds a race of amazing swiftness has been produced. Though not quite rivaling the telegraph, one of them sometimes makes a thousand *metres* a minute, the *metre* being equal to a little more than thirty-nine American inches. At Versailles as many as thirty or forty are some days despatched with letters for the journals of the capital. Flying only by sight, however, they cannot be used at night, and, indeed, it is only on clear days, especially towards evening, they can be depended upon to find the place of their destination.

THE SUB-TREASURY AS A REMEDY.

The tide of defalcations now sweeping over the country is nothing new or strange. It is melancholy that such things can be, and that men entrusted with the care of the public funds should prove unfaithful to their trust; but, under similar circumstances, such things have occurred before, and it is well enough to inquire whether the remedies then adopted would not be equally potent now.

In Gen. JACKSON'S time, and prior to the establishment of the Sub-Treasury, the funds of the United States were deposited in various banks throughout the country which were by them loaned out to their customers. Every one familiar with the facts of history knows of the financial disasters that followed this disposition of the public money; but every one does not now recall the other fact that at the same time the public ear was pained by the recital of just such a series of losses as the public prints have lately been detailing. There were differences, of course, in the details of the cases; but the custody of the public money, subject to the control of the depositing officer, seemed to breed as surely then as it seems to have done now, a series of large and astounding defalcations.

The establishment of the Sub-Treasury cured that epidemic of dishonesty. It put the national money in safe and secure places, and the power of depositing it at pleasure being taken away, the temptation to use it was destroyed. From that day to this the funds of the nation have been handled with honesty and care; and every State which adopted the same plan (Ohio was one) has been saved from defalcation and loss.

We are firm in the belief that the State and all her municipalities should adopt the same system now, and withdraw all public money from deposit in any institution whatever. The balances on hand will never be likely to grow unwieldy, there being no one interested in swelling them, and the State, as well as the municipality, is the only proper custodian of its own money. On this subject the Philadelphia *North American* well says:

"The arrangement of the deposits of a State, county or city is a prolific source of peculation, as the use of so much money is quite valuable to a fiscal institution, and what this leads to has been seen in so many cases that we need not particularize. In Europe, where the uses of money are pushed to extremes, it is held a radical error to withdraw from the credit forces of business the active use of so much capital. But all experience shows that it is in discounting on deposits that the greatest danger of all bunkum lies, and the moment we recognize the public moneys to be a proper subject for bank loans we enter upon a path which leads to certain danger."

FRANCE AND ITALY.

M. FOURNIER, for some years French Minister in Italy, whose leave-taking of VICTOR EMMANUEL was mentioned in our issue of yesterday, has doubtless been a subject of considerable perplexity to the MACMAHON government. In many ways M. FOURNIER made himself odious to the Pope and his friends, and especially by taking pains to show that the French people entertained neither purpose nor desire to interfere with Italian policy towards Rome and the temporal power. He was, therefore, fiercely denounced in all the Ultramontane journals of both France and Italy, while the same party every where vehemently demanded his recall. The Liberal journals and not only the Republicans, but all sensible Royalists in France who saw the madness of provoking the enmity of the Italians were just as earnest in commending the conduct of the French representative, while in Italy M. FOURNIER was equally popular with the multitude and at court. To let him remain at his post in Rome was to offend the clericals, and to recall him seemed likely to confirm the suspicions of the Italians as to the intention of the French Monarchists to interpose for the deliverance of the Pope from his imaginary imprisonment. However, the French government seems to have thought his recall unavoidable, but it has been rendered as honorable as possible. M. FOURNIER has been made a Minister Plenipotentiary of the first class, and has been retired on the pay of that grade in the diplomatic service. In order to please the Italians and neutralize their suspicion of French intermeddling with their affairs, M. DE NOAILLES, late Minister at Washington, takes the place of M. FOURNIER at Rome. It seems that in his entire career he has kept aloof from Ultramontane schemes and intrigues, and in Italy is already known to have no sympathy with reactionary views on the subject of the temporal power. It is admitted that his task in Rome will be difficult and delicate, but at least some Frenchmen hope that he may succeed, not only in dissipating Italian distrust of the French government, but in so changing Italian opinion on the subject as to form a close Franco-Italian alliance.

In the meantime, all signs indicate that the Italians intend to move steadily forward in the policy hostile to the Vatican as controlled by Jesuit influence, and so far to co-operate with Germany in its struggle with the Papacy. Italian unity is to be made a permanent and effective reality. A law for the regulation of the relations of Church and State will soon be laid before the Italian Parliament for action, while the work of army organization and the national defense is to be pressed on at the same time. Popular instruction also, including compulsory education in the essential elements, will be carried out, in connection with other important reforms. All these measures are believed to be in accordance with the understanding some months ago arrived at between the Italian and the German governments. There appears, therefore, no good reason to anticipate that any influence Ultramontane or anti-German on the part of France could, if exerted, succeed in turning or modifying a policy so full of promise for Italy in the future; a policy which renders her safety in time to come dependent upon the energy and good faith with which she stands by the ally whose interests and dangers are identical with her own.

THE Constitutional Convention, prior to its final adjournment, passed a resolution asking the Governor to violate the law and declare the Constitution in force from the 1st of January, 1874. The law in the case (and that law has been declared to be constitutional and in full force by the Supreme Court,) requires the Secretary of the Commonwealth to transmit the returns of the election on the Constitution to the Legislature within five days after its assembling; and when the Legislature has properly canvassed and certified the returns, *then* the Governor is required to issue his proclamation declaring that the Constitution has been adopted. The Governor having sworn to execute and enforce the laws of the State, will probably gauge his action by the terms of this law, and the proclamation declaring the Constitution will not be issued until after the returns have been legally canvassed. The Constitutional Convention had no legal right to canvass the returns, and its request to the Governor to violate the law and his oath of office will not, therefore, be complied with.

SOME weeks ago the Master in Chancery of the United States Court in Chicago decided that a number of railway companies must pay a large sum of money as damages for their infringement of the well-known "Tanner" car brake patent. The report attracted considerable attention at the time, on account of the importance of the patent and the vigorous manner in which the litigation was carried on. The associated railways were dissatisfied with the Master's conclusions, both as to the amount of damages he reported and the reasoning by which he arrived at his results, and they filed a large number of exceptions to his findings. These exceptions were recently fully argued before the Judge of the United States Circuit Court in that city, and the court, on Friday, made a decision holding that the Master was correct, overruling all the exceptions and confirming the report in every particular. This decision is a matter of considerable importance to a large number of railroads in the United States.

The Lieutenant Governorship.

To the Editor of the Pittsburgh Commercial:

The adoption of the new Constitution being now a fixed fact, it becomes important, next in order, to see that the different offices are filled with men well qualified for the positions. The most important office, outside the judiciary, to be filled, is that of Lieutenant Governor. For this position the Hon. George V. Lawrence, of Washington county, is very peculiarly well qualified. He is a man of large legislative experience, having served many years both in the Senate and House of the State Legislature, besides having served two terms in Congress. He was the acknowledged leader of parliamentary laws and usages in the late Convention. He was Speaker of the Senate some years since, and presided over that body in a manner that few can equal; and as this latter duty is the only probable one he will be called upon to perform, his election would secure to that body an able and dignified presiding officer. He is one of the best speakers in the State; and hence, to succeed next fall, we must put our best men in the front. FAYETTE COUNTY.

AMONG the decisions recently delivered by the United States Supreme Court is one in the case of Sawyer vs. Hoag. It appears that Sawyer subscribed to the stock of the Lumbermen's Insurance Company and borrowed eighty-five per cent. of the amount. After the Chicago fire the company became insolvent, and Sawyer bought up and adjusted claims to set off against his indebtedness. The court held that a debtor of an insolvent cannot purchase claims against his creditors, having full knowledge of his insolvency, and have them set off at their full value against his indebtedness to the insolvent; and the decree below enforcing the same view was affirmed.

THE first division of the second expedition of the Oriental Topographical Corps sailed on Saturday for Egypt, Sinai, Moab, Bashan and Asia Minor. The engineering and artistic staff will sail in February and join the first section in time to go through Sinai, Moab, and the balance of the expedition. The third and last sections, composed chiefly of tourists, will leave in March.

GENERAL AND PARTICULAR.

"Old Tecumseh's" credit is sound. Among the assets of Jay Cooke & Co., as published, one dollar is due the firm from the Commander of the Army, and it is designated as "good."

It is much better to adopt that resolution before than after New Year's, and then, you know, you won't have any headache.

Some one has originated the theory that a mirage deceived the second lieutenant of the Ville du Havre, and thus brought about the collision. Deceptive.

Platform of the communist: Every man who saves money must be made to divide with every man who saves none.

A Washington correspondent says of Mrs. Logan, wife of the Senator, that when in that city "she is one of the most charming and intelligent women." What is she when out of it?

There is a young lady in northern New York who is rapidly winning deserved distinction as a story-writer for children. Hardly any worker in her vein is more fruitful in piquant felicities of expression, or in little arrows of thought that go twanging straight into the mark.

Shakspeare Caldwell, formerly member of Congress from Louisville, has turned over to the poor of that city a handsome building for hospital purposes, erected by himself at a cost of $80,000. There is something in a name. He is called well.

Chicago is becoming more hoggish than ever. During the present season the packers of that city have slaughtered 990,284 hogs, against 635,783 for the same period last year.

When one reflects on current events, it must be conceded that in the aggregate the workingman manages to develop an astounding amount of folly.

Apparently there has never been so alarming a matrimonial mania as is prevailing this season. The poorer men grow, the more responsibilities they seem willing to assume. Weddings and wedding-garments are the subject of constant gossip in the papers.

Germany is acquiring a reputation for adulterating cigars. A writer in that country says: "All sorts of solid substances may be found rolled up in the leaf of the fragrant weed."

The *Jewish Messenger* is startled at the announcement of one Emanuel Moses Schlamowitz, who proposes to convert all the Jews to Roman Catholicism.

Survivors of Andersonville prison are to shoulder their crutches at a reunion, and together fight over again the horrors of the "dead line." Worcester is the spot selected for the gathering.

There is a great rush by females for office in the Treasury Department. The officials state that never before was the demand for position greater than at present.

The Oklahama question is looming up very high in the lobby at Washington. Two delegations of lobbyists are already on the ground, and a third will arrive in a few days.

There are some cheering indications of a revival of Southern trade. A late number of the Charleston *News* notes the presence in that port of a larger number of vessels than have been seen there at any one time since 1865. In the cotton trade alone that city shows a gain of 20,000 bales over last year.

A general railroad law is to be reported in the House after the holidays. The Committee on Railroads hold that the government has the right to declare the roads through States, under the constitutional provisions for the regulation of inter-State commerce.

Governor Dix has issued a proclamation for an election to fill the vacancy caused by the conviction of Genet for felony. The voters will probably be more careful this time about the antecedents of their candidate.

It is stated that the Supreme Court of Texas will probably decide against the legality of the recent election in that State, on account of informality in conducting it.

From the hunters and trappers say that all the usual natural signs which indicate severe winter weather are wanting this season. They predict a short and mild winter. The weather thus far confirms their prognostications.

Four millions are asked of the people of the country for paving a portion of the streets and avenues of Washington City. There are a good many Congressmen who own property in Washington City.

There has been a decision in the disputed Osage lands in favor of the settlers. The Judge of the Seventh Judicial District of Kansas holds that the railroads have no grant there. The case will be carried to the Supreme Court.

A mild winter, even when it comes on the heels of a financial panic, is not an unmixed blessing. There are already evidences of a premature development of flower, leaf and fruit buds, which may result in damage.

The announcement of the discovery of a tree in Australia that possesses anti-miasmatic properties, has excited deep interest in the low parts of the Southern States, and a general desire is entertained to know something more of it.

The latest projected railroad enterprise is a line between Boston and Washington, which is to proceed by a short cut across the country, striking the Hudson river at Spuyten Duyvil thus avoiding the inconvenience of the present break of connection in New York city.

Commerce is king. In 1807 Brazil opened the Amazon to the commerce of the world, and Peru followed her example in 1868. There are now three monthly lines of steamers from Para to Havre, Liverpool and New York. Within twenty-five years Peru has raisen from nothing to a populous city of 700,000 inhabitants.

Improvement of the Ohio River.

To the Editor of the Pittsburgh Commercial:

In an article in the COMMERCIAL of December 18th, discussing the question as to the proper mode of improving the Ohio river, the writer assumes that the sum and substance of all the investigations which have been made is, that the only practicable plan of radically improving the river is by locks and dams, at least as far down as Louisville, where the government has now nearly completed a splendid ship and steamboat canal around the falls.

The writer of that article says the plan proposed by Mr. Roberts, approved by the present engineer in charge, Col. W. E. Merrill, and sanctioned by Gen. Humphreys, Chief of the Engineer Department, is undoubtedly the true one, namely: The construction of a series of low dams, not exceeding six feet in height, from pool to pool, with movable gate chutes three hundred feet wide; these chutes to be so designed that during what may be termed coal boat floods, the gates should be let fall, and thus allow the fleet of coal boats to pass through; at other times these gates to be raised during what may be called low water periods, when the navigation would be through the locks.

Whether Mr. Roberts should have the credit for having first suggested the adoption of movable or adjustable gates or chutes, matters but little. All we want to know is, can there be anything better adopted? This system of slack-water has been advocated for some time, both for the Ohio and Monongahela, and is believed to be entirely practicable; and what is now most needed is some definite action. While I agree with the article quoted in the main, and believe it is the only practicable way of making a thorough, permanent and reliable public highway of the Ohio, I do not consider it wise or prudent to attempt too much, or to hazard the consequences or danger of obstructing so important a stream as the Ohio until the plan be fully matured and thoroughly tested in a way that no possible delay, inconvenience or danger would occur to parties navigating said stream.

Skill and careful judgment should be brought to bear to attain the best and safest arrangement of the chutes. The only thing experimental is the arrangement and operation of the gates. After all, experience may (as in most cases) have to point out any imperfections in plans or machinery, before it could be safely or successfully applied to so important a national highway as the Ohio.

As a safe and first step to the end in view, an experiment might be made in dam No. 1 on the Monongahela river. The Navigation Company has already expended considerable money and made necessary preparation to try something similar in their improvement at some future time. If something of this kind is to be tried in the Ohio, it would be far better for Congress to appropriate money for the experiment there, where the dam is already built, and where the failure of any plan adopted would not result in any injury to that work, or seriously obstruct or injure the commerce of the whole valley. But on the other hand, money so appropriated would be of incalculable benefit, not only in facilitating the rapidly increasing business on the river, but enable engineers to proceed economically and successfully to the completion of low dams at certain points on the Ohio.

It is not our purpose at this time to enter into arguments either for or against the adoption of this or that plan, or to make any suggestions in regard to plans for the working of the chutes. Several have been advocated by different persons. If Congress would appropriate the money necessary, and empower some one or more to act in conjunction with the Monongahela Navigation Company, no doubt some of those plans could be made work, or something else be adopted that would answer the purpose.

Why should not the city of Pittsburgh—why not all the inhabitants bordering on the Ohio and Mississippi, who would be directly benefited by cheap and reliable water communication—urge upon Congress, through their representatives, during the present session, the adoption of some scheme that would secure the prosecution of the work the coming season?

The increasing traffic on both these rivers demands better facilities. There should be no uncertain or dangerous experiment tried in the Ohio; try it in the Monongahela. Should it not prove a success, it can do no harm; if it answers the purpose, it is money well spent.

MONONGAHELA.

PERSONAL.

Apropos of the death of Mr. Frederick Dent, the father of Mrs. Grant, it is told that his grandfather suffered during the Revolution by having his house burned at the mouth of the Potomac and his father had his burned in the same place during the war of 1812 to 1815.

Boston physicians attribute the death of Professor Agassiz to the occlusion of the left inter-vertebral artery, in which the autopsy revealed coagulated blood, the presence of which, by obstructing the circulation of blood, prevented a portion of the brain from receiving its proper nutriment.

Of course we don't believe it, but it is said that the leading ladies of Washington are jealous of Mrs. Williams. And really, there has been a number of such cases, and they have made their mark in politics. Witness that of General Jackson and Mrs. Eaton, and the latter affliction regarding Mrs. Cataeazy.

Mercer county, Kentucky, should be a good place to come from. It has furnished four United States Senators—Logan, Adair, Brown and Thompson; two *chargés d'affaires*—Mc-Afee and Moore; two Governors—Adair and McGoffin; three Lieutenant Governors—Slaughter, McAfee and Thompson; and the other day a wife to the Secretary of War.

Mrs. Sam. Colt, of Hartford, signs every check and order used by her revolver foundry and takes a walk through the establishment twice a week. "Come to these arms," &c.

The Grand Duke Alexis has presented to the University of Michigan, at Ann Arbor, thirty volumes of the history and educational interests of Russia.

"Her price is above rubies." We should not have had nearly so many of the works of Agassiz put in a permanent form in English if it had not been for his wife. All of his communications for the press passed through her hands. She wrote much from his dictation, attended to a great many of his business details, and in a thousand ways forwarded his work.

A royal prince of Italy, the Duke of Genoa, has arrived at San Francisco, a midshipman on board the frigate Garibaldi, from Japan via Honolulu. He is the only son of the late Duke of Genoa, and a nephew of King Victor Emanuel. He was born February 6, 1854, so that he is not quite twenty years of age; and as he is unmarried, he ought to be an attractive to the young ladies of America as were the young bachelor princes of England and Russia. He will visit Washington.

George Koberle, a German, has done us the honor to make our war of independence the subject of a drama—a trilogy. The writer is but little known to fame in his native land; in the United States hardly at all. He has already published a volume of plays, which were tolerably successful, although they never attracted much notice in theatrical circles; and he is also the author of a published essay on the present state of the drama in Germany.

An intelligent western clergyman, being in poor health, instead of visiting Europe went to the Rocky mountains and spent five months in tramping about on foot. He got entirely well, and has resumed the pulpit work with more unction than half of those public clergymen who spend thousands on a jaunt to the continent of Europe.

It is thirty-three years since the tall, slight form, aquiline features and dark, brilliant eye of Guizot appeared at the Court of St. James's, on his appointment as the Ambassador of France; and now, at eighty-six, he is asked to return to a post which he filled at fifty-three.

George Francis Train swore that he would free Ireland, so help him Heaven. He got no help, but now thinks Tweed the best thing to free.

OHIO NEWS.

The value of articles received by lake at Cleveland during the present year is set down at $21,052,074; and the shipments at $31,652,016. The number of vessels entered was 3,350, with a tonnage of 1,088,765; cleared, 3,350, on tonnage 1,088,765. During the year there were built in the Cuyahoga district ten screw steamers and schooners, with an aggregate tonnage of 11,071 tons.

The Ohio Agricultural and Mechanical College announces the re-opening for the winter term on the 7th of January. Thirty students were in attendance during the fall term, and classes were formed in physics, English language, chemistry, agriculture, algebra, geometry, trigonometry and surveying, history and the German, Latin and Greek languages. The number attending the class in agriculture is to be stated.

John Wuffle, who had resided in Sharon Medina county, for thirty-five years, died on the 23d inst. at the age of eighty-four.

In connection with a Normal school at Republic there is a boarding hall where pupils are kept for $2 20 per week.

The Medina *Gazette* affirms that the panic has had no effect on that town, where business transactions are fifty per cent. greater than two years ago.

The editor of the Mahoning *News* comes valiantly to the support of a lady teacher whose overgrown masculine pupils insist that she shall sweep their rubbish from the floor because she gets one dollar per day.

Stephen Souls, one of the oldest settlers of Sullivan, Ashland county, was frozen to death one day last week. In a state of mental derangement he slipped away from his home, wandered over frozen roads and through snowing forests like a lost sheep. He Wearied and footsore he arrived at a frozen marsh several miles from home, where he took off his clothing, hung it up on a withered bough and lay down and died.

Youngstown is soon to have a street railroad four miles long, that will bring the villages of Brier Hill and Haselton within that city.

By the first day of February a new match factory, running fifteen or twenty hands, will be put in operation in New Philadelphia.

John Blasser, a young man of twenty-three years of age, was recently killed in the Barton coal mine on Stone creek, while engaged in digging coal.

The farmers around Painesville complain that the dogs are creating terrible havoc among their sheep.

Jesse Vanosdall has sued the incorporated village of Ashland for $4,000 damages for illegal imprisonment.

George Crouse, of Pultney township, Belmont county, died last week, at the wonderful age of 107.

A Madison butcher recently found a large shawl pin in a cow he was cutting up into steaks. It is supposed the animal had swallowed a milk maid.

There is only one gambling house left in Dayton, and its days are numbered.

The Tiffin shoe works manufacture sixty-five kinds of shoes.

The village council of Port Clinton has appropriated two hundred dollars to pay the expenses of a man to go to Washington to look after an appropriation for the improvement of Port Clinton harbor.

George S. Gordon, of Medina, took laudanum and arsenic, then cut all the veins and tendons of his wrists, and still death would not come. He had just passed his sixtieth birthday.

A young Dane, named August Teschke, was killed by a falling tree one day last week at Oak Harbor. He had $2,000 on his person at the time of his death.

The report of the trustees of the water works of Norwalk shows that a mile and two-fifths of street mains have been put down the present season, at a cost of $8,094 10. The length of main pipe now in use is nearly twelve miles, and the cost of the works so far about $102,000.

The Ashland *Times* says the banks of that place have resumed full currency payment; that "the panic is virtually over and has demonstrated that the business men of our town are sound, not a single failure having occurred during the panic."

The Legislature meets on the 5th of January, and the inauguration takes place on the 13th.

A lady in Sharon, Medina county, in going to the hall where a farmers grange was being organized fell down a steep embankment and was seriously injured. This may be considered an omen unless calculated to discourage ladies from intertering in politics, but it will not dampen their ardor. Of the thirty persons who organized the grange eight were ladies, and they intend to take an active part in its work.

The stockholders of the Marietta, Pittsburgh and Cleveland Railroad are notified to meet in Marietta on Saturday, January 10

FINANCE AND TRADE.

MONDAY EVENING, December 29, 1873.

As the year draws to its close financial sails are seemingly furling and a general disinclination is manifesting towards the making of new investments. Hence available borrowers are few in number, and while money is in good supply yet there is no endeavor thus far on the part of the lenders to force their funds upon the market and rates remain high. Twelve per cent. is asked as a rule with the concession, if any, made towards the borrower who offers prime collateral or who is regarded as strong and prompt. This last element of promptitude enters much more largely into the calculations than in former times. Then the ultimate security was principally regarded, but now not alone the ability of a man who borrows to pay ultimately is taken into the account, but likewise his character for promptness in meeting his obligations at their maturity is looked into, as capitalists are not now willing, as of yore, to be encumbered with permanent loans, no matter how secure.

There is a slight movement in some of our local bank stocks quoted on the street, but the prices are still ruling low. Some of the best stocks in the city have felt the late monetary stringency most by the reason that being considered the readiest sale, they were forced on the market when no one was in condition to purchase and hence showed a depreciation which was not quoted on securities less worthy, as these latter being held by the owners, had no opportunity of getting quotations.

In the East the stock market continues strong, with light business transacting so far but a handsome advance appearing over the price of last week.

—Messrs. Fisk & Hatch having resumed business will pay the January coupons on the bonds of the Central Pacific Railroad, the Western Pacific Railroad and the California and Oregon Railroad on and after January 21 prox., in gold, as usual.

Messrs. George Bolton, Alley & Co., New York, have settled in full and resumed business.

—The Assistant Treasurer gives notice that the interest on the public debt, due January 1st, will be paid on and after this date without rebate.

—From Washington we learn that the work of cutting down estimates proceeds but slowly, and the entire reduction, it is thought, will not exceed ten millions. As this amount will be inadequate for the relief of the treasury, Members of Congress say that early action will be necessary, and Kelley's proposition to borrow money on bonds bearing a low rate of interest is getting ground. Inflation seems to be predicted on all sides, and the impression is becoming general that it will be to a point considerably in excess of the four hundred millions which is now conceded to be the limit of the legal tenders.

—Yesterday, at the meeting of the creditors of Messrs. Ira B McVay & Co., held at the office of Samuel Harper, Esq., Register, Mr. L. Halsey Williams was unanimously elected assignee in bankruptcy for the firm. From Mr. Williams's long connection with the suspended house, and his thorough knowledge of their business, he is peculiarly fitted for the position, and, we opine, will be able to settle it up more to the satisfaction of all parties in interest than any other who could have been chosen.

—The following table shows the prices of railway stocks, gold, etc., at the various sessions of the New York Stock Exchange, during the day. Furnished by Gold and Stock Telegraph Company, corner of Fourth avenue and Wood street:

December 29, 1873.	10:30	11:30	12:30	1:30	2:30	3:30
	A. M.	A. M.	P. M.	P. M.	P. M.	P. M.
Gold	110½	110¾	110¾	110¾	110¾	110¾
Canton				68		
Western Union Tel'ph	73¾	73¾	73¾	73¾	73¾	73¾
Quicksilver				25		
Pacific Mail	37½	38	38¼	38¼	38½	38¼
Adams Express			91½		91½	
Wells Fargo Express			95½		96	
American Express			56½		56¾	
United States Ex'press			68		68	
New York Central	96¾	97¾	96¾	96¾	96¾	96¾
Erie				41¾	41¾	41¾
Michigan Central				76		
Michigan Southern	76	76¾	76½	76½	76½	76½
Lake Shore				76¾		
Cleveland & Pittsburgh				93		
Chicago & Northwestern	68	68¼	68	68	68	68
Do preferred	86½	86¾	86½	86½	86½	86½
Rock Island	92	92¼	92	92	92	92
St. Paul	41¾	41¾	41¾	41¾	41¾	41¾
Do preferred	69	69	69	69	69	69
Wabash	44¾	44¾	44¾	44¾	44¾	44¾
Do preferred				69		
Fort Wayne				90		
Ohio and Mississippi				30		30
Union Pacific	30	30¼	30½	30½	30½	30½
Chicago etc. Atlantic				20		
Boston, Hartford and Erie				13		
Harlem	125		125			

—The following are the quotations for Government and State bonds received by wire from New York to-day:

GOVERNMENTS.	Morn.	Noon.	Even.
1881, coupons	119½	120	120
5-20s, 1862	113¾	113¾	113¾
5-20s, 1864	115	115	115
5-20s, 1865,	115	115¼	115¼
5-20s, new	118	118¼	118¼
5-20s, 1867	118½	119	119
5-20s, 1868	118½	118¾	119
10-40s	111	111¾	112
10-40s, coupons	111¾	111¾	112¼
Currency 6s	113¾	113¾	113¾
New 5s	110¾	110¾	110¾
STATE BONDS.			
Tennessees	81½		81¾
Tennessee, new	81		81
South Carolinas, July	9¾		9¾
Missouri 6s	93		93

PRODUCE AND GENERAL MARKETS.

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL, MONDAY, December 29, 1873.

REMARKS—The snow still remains, yet the weather is not excessively cold. Trade opened on this morning just about as it closed on Saturday We anticipate no change for the worse until after the new year. The receipts of grain are very light, and the market is reported bare, particularly of wheat. And just now it looks as though our Western supplies were cut off for the time. However, we have it from high authority that the freight department will be in perfect running order in a day or two, when all will go on as usual. We are assured by dealers in flour that the stocks on hand are large, and that there is no disposition on the part of holders to "unload" the market, but that they will be content to dispose of their goods at quotations which will be found below. We do not take up space to mention those articles in which there is not the smallest change in price, and content ourselves with giving the following as the wholesale rates of the market, unless otherwise noticed.

The following table shows the total amount of the articles named for the past twenty-four hours:

Flour, bbls	1,920	Oats, sacks	1,000
Corn, sacks	1,750	Wheat, sacks	1,190
Barley, sacks	2, 87	Rye, sacks	116
Oats, sacks	24	Bran, sacks	24
Bacon, pcs	12,950	Bacon, lbs	150
Potatoes, bushels	2,165		

APPLES—There is a fair demand at $1 50@2 00 per bushel for common to medium, and $3 00@3 50 for choice.

APPLE BUTTER—Prices are steady with a moderately active demand. Sales at 60@70c per gallon.

ASHES—Soda Ash, common, 3¾@4c; refined 5c; Potash, 9c; Pearl, 10c; Arsenic, 5c; Black Lead, 6c.

ALES—X $3 bbl; XX, $9; India ale $10 ⅌ bbl; Burton ale, $7 ⅌ bbl; Winter's of 22 gals, $22 7½@27 ½; tons, 41 gals, $12 25@30 bbls, 68 gals, $62 50@65; 4; in cases, bottles, $2 75; Wm. Youngers' India pale ale in cases of 1 ½ doz bottles, $3 ⅌ doz; Robt. Youngs of sparkling ale $3 ⅌ doz; Guinness stout, bottled by E & A. Burke, $3 ⅌ doz; Cantrell & Cochrane's ginger ale $2 25 ⅌ doz; Caswells, Hazard & Co's ginger ale $1 75 ⅌ doz.

BEANS—Fair to choice navy $2@2 20. Trade fair.

BORAX—We quote refined at 25@ 28c.

BANNER BAKING POWDER—Market steady; sales per doz ⅌ 3 pounds, $1 60; ⅌ 6 lb do $3 00; 1 lb do $5 50; 5 cans, $27 00 per dozen.

BROOM CORN—Market dull with sales red and red topped 5½@6c; fair to good green 7½@8½. Hurl 9½@10c per lb.

BUTTER—Choice butter is not up with the demand; and we quote at 30@32c ⅌ lb; common to fair 19@25c. Receipts light.

BACON AND PROVISIONS—We have no change to note in prices, and quote as follows: Extra sugar cured, 9½c; breakfast bacon, sugar cured, 11@12c; dried beef, extra sugar cured, 15@c; bacon shoulders, 8½c; ri sides, 9c; short ro sides, 9½c; clear sides 10c; mess pork $14 00 per bbl; lard, prime leaf in tierces, 9¼c per lb; prime leaf in nail kegs, 10c; prime leaf in buckets, 10½c; refined for summer use in tierces, 9½c; refined half bbls, 10c; do in buckets, 10½c; refined in 5 lb cans tins, 12c; do in 5 lb cadzes, 11½c; do in 3 lb pails, 13c; in 6 lb pails, 13½c; ham sausage, 10c.

CASTOR OIL—Sales at works, f. o. b., at 11@11½c ⅌ gallon. The usual advance for small lots from stores charged.

CRANBERRIES—There has been a more active demand for these berries since the advent of the holidays. We continue to quote as follows: $10 to $13 per bbl; $5 50 to $6 per box.

CONCENTRATED LYE—Sales at $7 50@8 per case of four dozen packages.

CORN MEAL—Sales at $26 ⅌ ton for unbolted meal, and in a small way at $1 60 ⅌ cwt., from store.

CRACKERS—We quote Lemon biscuit 11½c; ginger snaps 12½c; oyster crackers 7c; soda crackers 7c; sugar crackers 9¾c; butter crackers 7c; water crackers 7c; XX 6½c ⅌ lb.

CEMENT—Beeson's Phœnix $2 00@2 50; Louisville $2 25@2 50; Rosendale $1 90@4 50; white lime $2 00; calcined plaster $4 00; land plaster $2 00@3 50.

CHEESE—The market is quiet and unchanged. We quote: Good Ohio Dairy 12½@13c; prime Ohio Factory, September make, 14½@15½ to the trade, and 16@18c to the consumer; Way Young America 18c; Limburger 15c; prime to choice Ohio Sweitzer 16@18c.

DRESSED HOGS—Sales at 5¾@6¼c ⅌ lb.

DRIED FRUIT—Sales of sun dried sliced apples at 5@6½c. Peaches 10@12c for prime halves.

EGGS—We quote strictly fresh at 31@32½c per doz. packed at 25@26c.

FISH—No 1 extra mess mackeral $35 ⅌ No. 1 mess do, $25; extra No. 1 shore mackeral, $20; No. 1 shore mackeral, $23; extra No. 1 bay mackerel, $19; No 1 bay mackerel, $17; extra No. 2 shore mackerel, $17; No 2 bay mackerel, $14 large No. 3 mackerel, $12 50; No. 3 mackerel, $10; split Labrador herring, $7 to $9; white fish, $7 50@8 00 lake trout, $7 00@7 50; large Georges codfish $7@7 50 ⅌ 100; medium Georges codfish, $6 50 ⅌ 100; red herring, scale 50c ⅌ box; No 1 3½c ⅌ lb; No 2 C, 4½@5c ⅌ lb.

FEATHERS—No. 1 at 70@80c ⅌ lb; No. 2 C, 40@43c as to quality and quantity.

FLOUR—As alluded to in our general remarks, the stock of flour held by leading dealers is large, and as yet no disposition has been shown to take advantage of the situation to "unload" the market. We give the following as the rulings of the market:

State amber wheat	$8 25@8 50
State red wheat	7 75@8 00
Fancy St. Louis	9 25@9 50
Fancy Kentucky white wheat	8 50
Good Ohio red wheat	8 00
Wisconsin Spring wheats	7 25
Minnesota Spring wheats	7 75
Rye flour	5 25

GROCERIES—Trade is reported moderately active at unchanged rates. Now is a good time to purchase, and we desire the reader to make a note of the fact and act accordingly. Following are the figures at which sales are made:

Coffee—Green Rio coffee, choice, 21c; strictly prime 20½@20¾c; prime 20@20½c; fair 19½@20c; green Java 25@28c ⅌ lb; roasted do in papers, 24c; in bulk 23½c; Java in papers, 4½c.

Tea—Young Hyson $1 @1 ⅌ lb; Gunpowder $1 25; Imperial 90c@1 00 ⅌ lb; Japan 85c@1 00 ⅌ lb; Oolong 75@85c ⅌ lb; fancy $1 00 ⅌ lb; Souchong 90@95c ⅌ lb.

Sugar—Standard Ex C 10½c; Standard B 10¾c; standard A 10¾c; standard extra 11½c.

Molasses—Choice New Orleans 75c; prime 68@70c.

Syrups—Extra White Drips 70c; Sugar Drips, 60@65c; Amber Drips 55@60c, as to quality.

Rice—Choice Caroline 8½c; Patna 8c; Rangoon 7½c.

HOMINY—We are reported sales at $4 50@5 00 per bbl.

GAME—The market is not so plentifully supplied and prices are firm. The following figures will not fall far from the mark: Squirrels—$1 75@2 00 ⅌ doz. Rabbits—$1 50@2 00 ⅌ dozen. Venison—Saddles 9@10c, whole deer from 7c to 10c. Quail—$1 50 ⅌ dozen. Pheasants—$3 50@4 00 ⅌ dozen. Prairie chickens—$2 50@3 00 ⅌ dozen. Partridges—$1 50@2 00 ⅌ dozen. Ducks—75@90c ⅌ pair. Geese—50@60c each. Turkeys—8@10c ⅌ lb. Chickens—9@10c ⅌ lb.

GRAIN—Owing to the difficulty on the railroads little or no grain is arriving. No grain of an description was reported on the street, and generally of a good quality. We quote as follows: 1873's at 45@50c ⅌ lb; 1870's 35@40c; 1871's 38@40c.

HAY—We are reported sales baled, on wharf, at $19@24; wagon $20@26. Straw $14 ⅌ ton.

HOPS—Are in good supply with sales in a regular way at $4 00 to $5 50 per bale.

HORSES—Medium, 900s, $10; medium half 900s, $8; 1,000 lbs Boston mixed, $5 00; plugs, plain or mixed, per dozen, $1 50; quarts, plain or mixed, $2 50; half gallons, plain, $ 75; gallons, plain, $3 50; Eagle ax iron, mixed, $1 50@1 75; English chow chow, pints, $4 50; English chow chow, quarts, $8 00; English mixed pickles, pints, $3 00; English mixed pickles, quarts, $6 00; English cauliflower, pints, $3 00; English cauliflower, quarts, $6 00; English piccalilli, pints, $3 00; English piccalilli, quarts, $6 00; English white onions, pints, $4 50; English white onions, quarts, $7 50; English gherkins, pints, $3 75; English gherkins, quarts, $6 00; English Motussali, pickles, pints, $4 50.

IRON—Sales at $1 15@1 25 for prime; mixed 90@95c ⅌ cash. *Steel*—Baltimore $4 50@5 50 ⅌ keg for English blister; $5@6 25 ⅌ keg for cast.

LIME—There is more doing in timothy, at $3 00@3 30 ⅌ bushel. There is some inquiry for clover at $5 ⅌ bushel. Flaxseed, $2 10@2 20 ⅌ bushel.

WHISKEY—Highwines 90c@$1 00 per gallon.

PITTSBURGH OIL TRADE.

OFFICE OF THE DAILY COMMERCIAL, MONDAY, December 29, 1873.

REMARKS—The oil market since our last has undergone no change as relates to prices or demands. The general impression is that it rate will reverse after the first of January. The market in the oil regions was steady, with a fair jobbing demand. Prices, however, are without change.

CRUDE.

The market was steady, prices ruling about the same as for some days past. The following sales were made at

PARKER'S.

2,500 bbls Union.....$1 02½
2,000 obls United.....92½

For prices in the oil regions, see dispatches.

REFINED.

Dealers report the market active with a good trade, with sales by the car load at the works at 11½c ⅌ gallon.

Philadelphia—Market quiet; spot 12½c; January 13¾@13¾c; February 13¾@13¾c; March 14@14¼c; April 14¾@14¾c.

New York—The market was reported moderately active. Prices are without change; spot 13¾c; first half February 13¾c; March 14c. Sales 2,000 bbls B O first half May, 15c.

BARRELS.

Market steady; city $1 90; country $1 80.

TITUSVILLE, December 29—The "Herald" says: Petroleum markets quiet and unchanged. Oil upset price for the market was $1 10@1 15; English close was quoted at $1 05@1 10; Parker's was 92½c for United and 87½c for Union and little doing. Sales 2,000 obls upper road, spot.....$1 15
2,000 bbls, upper road, spot.....1 13½
1,000 bbls, upper road, spot.....1 13¾
2,000 bbls, upper road, March.....1 17¾
1,000 bbls, Oil City, spot.....1 05
2,000 bbls, Parkers, United pipe.....1 02½
2,000 obls, Parkers, United pipe.....92¾

NEW YORK, December 29, closing 28.—Market moderately active and prices without much change. Sales 19,000 barrels crude, 3,000 bbls, March, at 14c, 3,000 obls, deliverable February 1st to 5th, 13¾c, 2,000 obls, buyers 60 to 90 days, at 13¾c; 2,000 bbls for first half of May and 5th Cases 18¾@19c. Philadelphia market quiet; refined 13¾@13¾c.

PHILADELPHIA, December 29.—Market quiet: S W 32½c; crude ⅞c; cases 18c; sales-none; futures, January 13¾@13¾c; February 13¾@13¾c; March 14¼c; April 14¾@14¾c.

TITUSVILLE, December 29.—Market steady at $1 15 for No 1. Market hardly up-dated.

OIL CITY, December 29.—Market opened nominal at $1 15.

PETROLEUM CENTRE, December 29.—Market very quiet at 95c.

FRANKLIN, December 29.—The market unchanged; 9c offered; no sales reported.

PARKERS, December 29.—Market 90c@$1 00 and quiet.

Those here we desire to state that in the organization of the employees in the Atlantic Telegraph Line we have the following facts—Mr Wm. H. Morse is Chief Joe McBratney. To the former we are under obligations for favors, which we always cheerfully accord to the latter for office favors. They have our best wishes for success in whatever they may embark.]

ALLEGHENY LIVE STOCK MARKET.

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL, MONDAY, December 29, 1873.

The receipts of cattle this week have been light, in fact, more so than for a long time, owing to the strike prevailing over the Western roads. The number of cattle by rail, as will be seen by reports below, amounts to only some nineteen cars, or three hundred and fifty head. In addition to these there were small droves from Washington, Beaver, Butler and Mercer counties, about sufficient to make five hundred and fifty head of cattle as the total of offerings. The quality of the cattle in general was the medium grades, with some common, and a few good among them. The stock from Chicago was behind time, but came in all right in time for the market, and were pretty good cattle; in fact, the best, considering what they were—yearlings and two year olds—that have been here for some time. The market opened at about seven o'clock dull and slow, owing to the fact that drovers all held cattle from ¾c to ⅞c higher than last week. Butchers had a bad meat market last week, owing to Christmas and the use of poultry, and, of course, did not execute to any advance for cattle; but the strike curtailing the run of stock, in connection with the fact that some dealers bought on Sunday for East Liberty and the Eastern trade, made the supply very light and gave sellers a decided advantage. Butchers, after looking over the yard, saw the condition of affairs, and commenced to purchase. They all bought sparingly, only for this week's use, and after supplying all, some cattle were left over unsold. Trade to the close was slow, but prices from at least ¾c to ⅞c higher than last week. Nothwithstanding there was a slight decline in prices down the river, first-class cattle commanded, and the drovers felt perfectly easy, and withdrew their stock and sent it to East Liberty for wholesale, expecting good prices this week. Samuel Krause bought two loads, and Lowenstein & Arnold four out for East Liberty. There were some Eastern men at the Allegheny yards to day, but so far as we could learn, they did not purchase anything. Prices as noted above were ¾c to ⅞c higher.

CATTLE.

Extra cattle, $6 75 to $7 00; prime heavy cattle, $6 00 to $6 50; fair, $5 50 to $5 75; good, $5 00 to $5 25; medium, $4 50 to $4 75; common, $4 00 to $4 25; bulls, $2 50 to $4 00.

ARRIVALS.

Following are the arrivals of live stock for the week ending to-day:

	Cars.
W. Thompson, from Bellair, Ohio	1
S. Forsyce, from Bellair, Ohio	1
Lang Bros., from Bellair, Ohio	1
J. Snellman, from Bellair, Ohio	1
Lash & Boyce, from Bellair, Ohio	1
F. Adams, from Bellair, Ohio	1
C. Shoemaker, from Bridgeport, Ohio	1
J. Mercer, from Bridgeport	1
Merrick & Varner, from Chicago, Ill	1
M Varner, from Chicago, Ill	3
Greenwald & Varner, from Chicago, Ill	4
W Mendelsohn, from Chicago, Ill	1
Marks & Bro., from Chicago, Ill	1
H. H. Brooke, from Alliance, Ohio	1
Mixed stock, from Bellair, Ohio	3
Total	19

SHEEP.

The receipts of sheep to-day fair, about six hundred head. The market opened fair on good grades, and continued so until the close. Common dull and not wanted. Prime lambs sold from $3 25 to $4 50 per head. Prime sheep from $5 to $5 75 per hundred lbs. Common sold from $2 50 to $3 50 per head. Some drovers withdrew their stock and sent it to East Liberty for wholesale.

HOGS.

The run of hogs light, and all in the hands of regular dealers. Market slow, but prices ½c higher. Some stock unsold, butchers unwilling to pay the advance.

PRICES.

Extra $6 20 to $6 25; prime $6 to $6 10; fair $5 75 to $5 90; common $5 25 to $5 50.

WOOL MARKETS.

BOSTON.

December 27.—The wool market has been quiet since our last report, and the sales of the week, which is a short one, are lighter than for some time. With a limited demand the tendency is toward a little easier prices, but as dealers have small stocks they are not inclined to seek buyers, or to make any material concession in order to effect sales. If one wished to realize on a lot of wool this week he would probably have to yield a little, but most of the transactions of the week have been at about last week's prices. Choice Ohio and Pennsylvania fleeces are in limited supply, and holders are generally very confident that there will be an early demand for all the stock of this description which is in the market. We continue to quote Ohio and Pennsylvania X and XX at 52@53c, with choice lots of XXX and Picklock at a little higher figures. Michigan and Wisconsin fleeces are selling moderately at 50@51c.

Pulled wools are steady, and the stock is only moderate. Extra and fine supers are in good demand, and some lots of Eastern super have sold as high as 55 cents.

The demand for foreign wool is fair and holders are firmer. We note a sale of 200,000 pounds New Zealand to go to New York, on private terms, and 40,000 Cape in bond, to go to Canada. We quote Cape at 25@36c and Australian at 49@51 cents.

Combing wools are sought for, and prices tend upward, sales being made during the past week at 54@ 57c.

Receipts for the week ending December 25 have been 3,055 bales of mestic.

Sales for the week foot up 750,000 lbs domestic, and 225,000 lbs foreign. Included in the former are the following sales of fleece wools: 10,000 lbs Ohio at 52c; 17,000 lbs do X at 52c; 50,000 lbs do Michigan and Wisconsin X at 52@53c; 3,000 lbs Michigan X at 52c; 50,000 lbs Michigan and Wisconsin at 49@50c; 10,00 lbs Wisconsin X at 50c; 9,000 lbs montana do 49½c; 6,000 lbs Texas at 36c; 50,000 lbs XX and above at 52@ 2,000 lbs coarse at 47½c; 2,000 lbs do at 46c; 56,000 lbs No 1 extra mess mackeral $35 ⅌ No. 1 mess do, $25; extra No. 1 shore mackeral, $20; No. 1 shore mackeral, $23; extra No. 1 bay mackerel, $19; No 1 bay mackerel, $17; extra No. 2 shore mackerel, $17; No 2 bay mackerel, $14 large No. 3 mackerel, $12 50; No. 3 mackerel, $10; split Labrador herring, $7 to $9; white fish, $7 50@8 00 lake trout, $7 00@7 50; large Georges codfish $7@7 50 ⅌ 100; medium Georges codfish, $6 50 ⅌ 100; red herring, scale 50c ⅌ box; No 1 3½c ⅌ lb; No 2 C, 4½@5c ⅌ lb.

FEATHERS—No. 1 at 70@80c ⅌ lb; No. 2 C, 40@43c as to quality and quantity.

FLOUR—As alluded to in our general remarks, the stock of flour held by leading dealers is large, and as yet no disposition has been shown to take advantage of the situation to "unload" the market. We give the following as the rulings of the market:

State amber wheat	$8 25@8 50
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Fancy St. Louis	9 25@9 50
Fancy Kentucky white wheat	8 50
Good Ohio red wheat	8 00
Wisconsin Spring wheats	7 25
Minnesota Spring wheats	7 75
Rye flour	5 25

GROCERIES—Trade is reported moderately active at unchanged rates. Now is a good time to purchase, and we desire the reader to make a note of the fact and act accordingly. Following are the figures at which sales are made:

Coffee—Green Rio coffee, choice, 21c; strictly prime 20½@20¾c; prime 20@20½c; fair 19½@20c; green Java 25@28c ⅌ lb; roasted do in papers, 24c; in bulk 23½c; Java in papers, 4½c.

Tea—Young Hyson $1 @1 ⅌ lb; Gunpowder $1 25; Imperial 90c@1 00 ⅌ lb; Japan 85c@1 00 ⅌ lb; Oolong 75@85c ⅌ lb; fancy $1 00 ⅌ lb; Souchong 90@95c ⅌ lb.

Sugar—Standard Ex C 10½c; Standard B 10¾c; standard A 10¾c; standard extra 11½c.

Molasses—Choice New Orleans 75c; prime 68@70c.

Syrups—Extra White Drips 70c; Sugar Drips, 60@65c; Amber Drips 55@60c, as to quality.

Rice—Choice Caroline 8½c; Patna 8c; Rangoon 7½c.

New York Finance and Trade.

Gold Closed at 110⅞.

NEW YORK, December 29, 1873.

STERLING

more active during the afternoon, advancing to 1-32, but closed easy at 7 per cent.

STERLING

steady at 108¾ for 60 day, and 109¼@109¾ for sight. Customs receipts $269,000.

GOLD

weaker on heavy payments by the treasury, closing at 110⅞. Loans were at 6, 7, 1 32, 1-16, 3 64, and 7 gold for carrying. The Ass't Treasurer paid out $1 440,000 on account of January interest, $830,000 currency interest, and $44 000 in redemption of 5-20 bonds. Clearings $46,000,000.

GOVERNMENTS

strong.

U. S. coupons, 1881	20	5-20's, '67	19
5-20's, '62	18½	5-20's, '68	19
5-20's, '64	15	New 5's	10½
5-20's, '65	15¾	10-40's	12¾
5-20's, '65, new	18½	Currency 6's	12¾

STATE BONDS

dull.

Missouri	93	Virginia, old	36
Tennessee, old	80½	North Carolina, old	24
Tennessee, new	81	North Carolina, new	15
Virginia, new	40		

STOCKS

active and strong during the morning. Before first board prices declined from ¼ to 1 per cent., but an active buying movement followed and a general recovery ensued. The market closed dull, ¼ to ¾ off from the high at prices of the forenoon. The following is the railroad list in the West has a depressing influence. At a meeting of the creditors of the Chesapeake and Ohio Railroad Company to-day, a large representation being present, it was unanimously resolved to accept the proposition of the company to fund the floating debt with income bonds. Stock sales to-day between ten and eleven o'clock amounted to 60,000 shares, of which 20,000 were Western Union, 16,000 Union Pacific, 8,500 Wabash, 9,000 Pacific Mail, 1,500 Ohio, 3,000 Rock Island, 3,000 St. Paul, 17,000 Lake Shore, 4,000 Columbus, Chicago and Indiana Central, 3,000 Rock Island and 6,000 Northwest.

Bankers' bills	9	St. Paul	41¾
Canton	65	St. Paul preferred	67¾
C. C. C. & I. Co	72¾	Wabash	44¾
Quicksilver	25¾	Do preferred	71¾
Adams Express Co	91¾	Fort Wayne	89
Wells, Fargo & Co	95	Terre Haute	14
American Express	57¾	Do preferred	34
U. S. Express	67	Chicago & Alton	101¾
Pacific Mail	38¾	Do preferred	130
N. Y. Central	98¼	Ohio & Mississippi	30
Erie	44	Chicago, Col. & Cin	14
Erie preferred	70	Bur. & Quincy	95
Harlem	119	Lake Shore	76¾
Harlem preferred	120	Panama	140
Michigan Central	76	Illinois Central	95
Pittsburgh	84¾	Union Pacific	30½
N. W. C	68¼	Central Pacific	93¾
Do preferred	69¾	Union	85¾
Rock Island	92¾	Hartford & Erie	3¼
N. J. Central	102	Del. Lack	105

MARKETS BY TELEGRAPH.

Chicago Market.

CHICAGO, December 29, 1873.

FLOUR—Dull but unchanged.

GRAIN—Wheat active and prices advanced; No 1 spring $1 17; No 2 do $1 15@cash, $1 15¾ seller January, $1 19 seller February; No 3 $1 10@1 12½; active and prices advanced; No 2 red $1 25@1 25½ seller January, 65½@ seller February. Oats—Demand active and prices advanced; No 2, 88¼@ spot or January, 39½c February. Rye quiet; No 2, 82½@83c. Barley dull and nominal for fall; No 2, $1 37; active for No 2 at $1 40.

PROVISIONS—Pork active at $14 25. Lard active at 8¾c spot, 8¾c February. Bulk meats—Demand active and prices advanced to 5¾@5¾c. Green hams 9½c. Shoulders 6c; short rib middles 6¾c. Bats, 6 16 average, 8¾c.

Dressed Hogs—Firm at $5 80@6 00.

WHISKY—Steady and in moderate demand at 93c.

New York Live Stock Market.

NEW YORK, December 29.—Beeves—Fresh receipts 2,71 cars, or 3,69 head, making 5,91 for the week, against 7,800 last week. Market fair and prices ½c per lb. higher on good to prime cattle; poor to good at 7¾@8½c per lb; native steers at 9¼@9¾c. Among the sales were 11 cs s Illinois steers, 1,7 ave 1,400 lbs, at 10¼c; 1,700 lbs, at 10½c; 1,600 lbs do at 10¾c; 1,700 lbs do at 10¾c; 1,600 lbs do at 10¾c; 1,600 lbs do at 10¾c; 1,600

CITY MATTERS.

Coroner's Inquest.

Coroner McCallin held an inquest on the body of Thomas Murray, at Elizabeth, yesterday. The deceased's health has been poor for the past two years, and on Sunday morning he dropped dead at the Bellevue coal works. He came from Middletown, N. J., to Elizabeth about five weeks ago, but was able to work only two days during that time, and was in destitute circumstances at the time of his death. He was thirty-four years of age. The jury returned a verdict of death from natural causes. The deceased was buried at the expense of the county.

A Pleasant Occasion.

On Wednesday, (Christmas eve), the scholars of the Twentieth ward public schools, gave an entertainment at the school house to their parents and friends. The affair was gotten up under the supervision of the principal, Mr. Cameron, and the lady teachers, Misses Simpson, Asper, Irwin and Myler. The address of welcome, which was delivered by Master Dilworth B. McClelland, was a very creditable performance. After the address, the company enjoyed dancing until midnight. A splendid supper was prepared. The directors were present and the occasion was a complete success. It is the intention to make these entertainments annual, and they will certainly tend to promote the good feeling existing between teachers and pupils.

An Advertising Hoax.

A correspondent writes us from West Newton, Pa., as follows:

An advertisement appeared in the Pittsburgh *Daily Dispatch*, of last Saturday, stating that one hundred and fifty laborers were wanted in West Newton, and directed applicants to inquire of the street commissioner. The miserable joke seems to have been too successful, as several men from different points have already applied for work on the strength of the advertisement. Some, out of money and employment, walked from Pittsburgh, arriving footsore and tired, only to find they had been hoaxed.

It is sincerely hoped the guilty wretch who perpetrated the "joke" may meet with his just deserts.

Week of Prayer in Lawrenceville.

The following programme for services during the Week of Prayer has been prepared by the United Presbyterian, Methodist, Baptist and Presbyterian Churches of Lawrenceville: Monday evening in the M. E. Church, sermon by the Rev. R. Lea; Tuesday evening in the Baptist Church, sermon by the Rev. W. H. Andrews; Wednesday evening in the U. P. Church, sermon by the Rev. A. J. Bonsall; Thursday evening in the Presbyterian Church, sermon by the Rev. W. H. Andrews; Friday evening, in the M. E. Church, sermon by the Rev. A. J. Bonsall; Saturday evening, in the Baptist Church, sermon by the Rev. R. Lea; Sunday evening, in the U. P. Church, sermon by Rev. W. B. Wallace.

Half an hour before each service will be devoted to prayer on the subject indicated by the Evangelical Alliance.

Funeral of Father M. F. Devlin.

The last rites, services and office for the dead will be recited this morning at nine o'clock at the Cathedral over the remains of the Rev. Mark F. Devlin, to be followed by solemn Pontifical Requiem Mass, after which the body will be interred in St. Mary's cemetery. Father Devlin was a native of Allegheny county, born and reared in our midst, educated at St. Michael's seminary and received Holy Orders in 1865. He was attached to the Cathedral, but after the death of Father O'Rourke, he assumed charge of St. Mary's church at the Point. His remains were yesterday afternoon conveyed to the Cathedral, and laid in state during the evening and night, and immediately after mass this morning the opportunity of viewing the remains. He died in his thirty-third year, in the noon-time of life, beloved and respected by all who knew him, young and old. Naturally retiring in demeanor, gentle and kind in disposition, especially charitable to the needy and poor, he had indeed endeared himself to many, who, with unfeigned feelings of regret will mourn his early demise, and with sad hearts follow his remains to their last resting place. *Requiescat in pace.*

EMANCIPATION ANNIVERSARY.

The Event to be Celebrated in Allegheny.

The ninth anniversary of the day upon which President Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation will be celebrated on Thursday, January 1st, at Excelsior Hall, Allegheny. A grand parade of secret and benevolent societies will take place in the morning, the societies and others participating, assembling at Brown A. M. E. Chapel at Diamond and Boyle streets, Allegheny, where impressive services will be held and addresses delivered by Rev. W. S. Landford, of Wylie Street A. M. E. Church; Rev. M. M. Bell, of Avery Mission Church; Rev. B. Matthews, D. D.; Rev. W. H. Brown, of Brown Chapel; Rev. D. E. Asbury, and Prof. S. A. Neale.

At the close of the meeting at the church the lodges, societies and congregation will be formed into line by the Grand Marshal of the day, George W. Dimey, assisted by his aids, Messrs. Harry Shorter and Daniel Shorter, and headed by a brass band will march to Excelsior Hall at 12 o'clock M., where a grand emancipation dinner will be served. On the 1st a Grand Emancipation Sociable will be held at the same place, where every variety of healthy refreshment and choice articles, useful and ornamental, will be sold. The proceeds are to be appropriated to the liquidation of the debt of Brown Chapel.

PUBLIC AMUSEMENTS.

Pittsburgh Opera House.

The New Year play was given last night for the first time at the Opera House. It is into so good as "Lost at Sea," but that was hardly to be expected. The entire stock company, headed by Mr. Gotthold, are brought out, and an entertaining afternoon or evening is assured to all who patronize this popular resort during the week. The audience last night was not as large as we hope to see at future representations of "Life in the Streets."

Academy of Music.

As has been stated on previous occasions, "Joe" Emmet is popular with the people of Pittsburgh—very popular, in fact; and this was more than verified by the very large audience gathered at the Academy of Music, last evening, to welcome him home after an absence of two years. Every part of the house was filled by people who went, knowing that they were to be entertained by about the best dialect actor now on the stage. The reception accorded the actor on his first appearance was a most cordial one; and he, in turn, was almost embarrassed, it must certainly have at once put him at ease with his friends in front. "Fritz, our Irish German," has been a favorite character since it was last produced here, and in nearly every instance in the interim in which the character has been introduced, adapted to Mr. Emmet's peculiarly graceful style, all of which he makes the most of. The songs sung by "Fritz" are new, some very funny and all excellent. The most pleasing to our mind, was "The Mountain Guide," given in the second act. Mr. Emmet is a capital singer, and has much improved in this as in other respects. His acting is naturally natural, but his humor is natural and all pervading. He makes the transition from mirth to sadness without straining or over-acting, bringing out the straightforward, manly people and tender-hearted, yet shrewd young German. His voice on the high notes and in other lastrumpets were wondrously well played, and received the warmest plaudits.

The support rendered by Miss Florence Noble, Misses Morant and Rainford, Messrs. Pitou, Pearson and others of the dramatic company, were in the main quite good, and gave very general satisfaction. Miss Noble's dressing of her character was not exactly what it should have been, in deference to accuracy of representation.

The piece was well mounted and set, Manager Beamer having made preparations in advance in these particulars. As it will be the attraction throughout the week at the Academy there will be a succession of such houses as are rarely seen inside the walls of that house. Those who desire to get all the enjoyment possible out of "Fritz," should call at Hamilton's music store, 103 Smithfield street, or the Academy box office, and secure seats in advance, else they may have to play wall-flower for the entire evening.

Tyndale's Varieties.

The old Varieties holds on the even tenor of its way, its patrons assuming by it on all occasions.

There was a fine house and an excellent performance, last evening. Past experience warrants the prediction of a similar state of affairs for to-night.

Library Hall.

The people were hungry for opera. How they could have waited so patiently for the annual feast is an unexplained mystery. But Kellogg came at last, and right royally was she received. Not, indeed, with shouts or noisy plaudits—not with meaningless compliment, but with an attendance and attention at the opening night which must have been gratifying even to the acknowledged favorite of the American stage. At eight o'clock every seat in the spacious hall had been taken, and many enthusiastic admirers of the lyric queen were standing in the aisles. Shortly after that hour the first strains of the overture broke upon expectant ears, and the opera of Martha followed. A more critical audience never listened to a more charming rendition of this musical gem. We take the liberty of speaking their unqualified praise of the prima donna and her able support.

Miss Kellogg has entirely recovered from her late illness, and shows no sign of it in action, song or voice. With the same ease of vocalization which has so much distinguished her among living singers, she rendered the most difficult of the numbers, her wonderful voice soaring to the impossible as easily and as sweetly as a bird's. Upon her first appearance she was given a cordial round of applause, but it was not till she sang "The Last Rose of Summer," in the second act, that the audience were swept away from their quiet enjoyment of the music and demanded, with unmistakable emphasis, a repetition. This was given, to the delight of all. The spinning wheel song was exquisitely done, Miss Kellogg's soprano warbling wonders there. At the end of the second act, in response to continued calls, Miss Kellogg appeared before the curtain, escorted by the others of the ensemble.

Mrs. Seguin sustained her high reputation and furnished a contralto worthy of such a soprano; could we say more? Her finest opportunity, of course, was in the hunting scene, and there she excelled herself. The most cautious critic could find no fault with "Why, My Soul," as sung by Mrs. Seguin. The audience listener with rapt attention till the fall-test echo died away, and then gave her the most flattering encore. A beautiful bouquet added to her reward and inspired the repetition.

Of the new candidate for public favor, Mr. Joseph Maas, there was but one opinion—that he is a valuable acquisition to the lamentably thin ranks of good tenors. His voice is of more than average compass and of unusual sweetness. He exhibits much feeling—more, however, in his tones than manner. In the aria "Lo-I, Proscribed," he first displayed its powers, and fairly won a hearty response from his audience. But in the song "She Appeared to Me," he reached his climax and took an encore graciously.

Mr. Hall was an acceptable Plunkett, showing, beside a rich voice, more than ordinary dramatic power.

For the chorus, the word is "magnificent." The close of the third act was superb, giving the perfectly trained chorus an opportunity of letting out the power of which sure indications had been before given. It is evident that not a little of the success of the Kellogg troupe is due to its disciplined and very effective chorus.

Everybody knows that there are but three more nights and one matinee of opera at present, but it is not generally known that, in case of "Fra Diavolo," as announced, for Thursday night, we are to have "Faust" and Theodore Habelman. The mere announcement is sufficient to put all lovers of the art divine on the tip-toe of hope expectation. Tonight Rigoletto (The Fool's Revenge) will be given, with the addition of Mme. Jenny Van Zandt and other accomplished artists to the cast.

OUR CITY COUNCILS.

Last Regular Meeting of 1873.

Important and Interesting Business.

Reports of Investigating Committees.

Conduct of the Fire Department.

THE COMMISSIONERS FULLY ENDORSED.

David Kirk, Esq., vs. the City Engineer.

MR. DEMPSTER CENSURED BUT

HIS HONESTY MAINTANED.

CONSTRUCTION OF THE NEW WATER WORKS.

THE WATER COMMITTEE IN CHARGE.

The Governor Asked to Sign the New City Charter.

Personal Explanation of Mr. Phillips

The Question of the Next City Election—The Opinion of the City Attorney Requested—Adjourned Meeting on Wednesday—Interesting Debates in the Select Branch—Mr. Kirk Overhauls the Engineer and the Committee of Investigation—A Committee to Visit the Governor to Ask his Signature to the New City Charter—The New Controller Makes a Good Showing of Duty and Compliance with Law—He Reports the Mayor "Short" in his Accounts.

The city Councils held their last regular meeting for the year 1873 yesterday afternoon. The attendance was very full and the liveliest interest was manifested by members in the proceedings. The lobbies of the two branches were also very full especially in the Select chamber where the main interest centered. The reports of the investigating committees on the conduct of the Fire Department, and on charges preferred against City Engineer Dempster were first presented in the common branch, but no excitement was occasioned thereby there. In that branch was initiated, however, a resolution calling upon the Governor to sign the new city charter, and for the appointment of a joint committee to visit His Excellency in the behalf. It will be seen by our report below that the resolution passed both branches and that the committee was appointed.

In the select branch there was much interest, and considerable excitement was created by Mr. Kirk's arraignment of Engineer Dempster, and the committee that investigated the charges against him. Considerable feeling was manifested on both sides, but the debate was conducted in a manner creditable to the Councilmanic body. The charges against the report and the resolution accompanying it. The result of the investigation into the conduct of the Fire Department was acquiesced in as might be expected, unanimously. They new Controller Mr. Shoenberger, reported for the first time, and in that he intends to have a watchful eye over city affairs in fact as well as in name. Altogether the meeting was quite an interesting one, calculated to give hope to the tax payers that in the future greater care will be taken in conducting public business.

The desk of Common Council was cleared entirely, but in Select, owing to the lengthy debates, six o'clock arrived before the whole of the work was done. Some communications were left over for confirmation, but as the resolution calling upon the City Attorney for an opinion as to the time of the next city election requires a meeting on Wednesday these can be attended upon.

SELECT COUNCIL.

After the reading and approval of the minutes of the preceeding regular and two adjourned meetings.

Mr. Phillips asked to suspended the rules for the purpose of submitting a communication from the Controller asking for certain transfers of appropriations in cover expenses until the new appropriations shall have been made.

There being no objections, the rules were suspended for the time, and the communication was read to the clerk.

On motion, the resolution covering the transfers was adopted.

The clerk had read another communication from the Controller, calling attention to the fact that the Mayor is "short" in his accounts $[illegible], and this may be stated, is because of the failure of Ira S. McVay & Co.) Referred to the Finance Committee.

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Also, a communication from the Controller, asking that some suitable person be assigned charge of the hall of the Water Commission. Accepted and ordered to be filed.

Mr. Phillips presented an ordinance conferring all the powers and duties of the Water Commission upon the Water Committee. He stated that this is simply to keep the work going until the special committee appointed for the purpose shall report to Councils a new plan under which to control the work.

Mr. McCarthy called attention to the fact that with the year the committee dies, and there is none until appointed under the new Councils.

Mr. Phillips said that the Chairman of the Water Committee holds over and on the first Monday of January the new Councils organize.

Mr. Lloyd, Chairman of the Water Committee, thought it would be better to continue the old members of the new Councils, as he understood there is no money to be had.

Mr. Laufman said it was absolutely necessary that some provision be made at once for the conduct of the work.

Mr. Phillips said the Water Committee ought to be authorized to employ a clerk.

Mr. Watson having referred to the fact that warrants would not be issued on account of the sickness of the Mayor,

Mr. Littell said that he had information, that Dr. Pollock had allowed the Mayor to sign all necessary papers.

Mr. Burgwin said that there would be an interregnum between the death of the present and the organization of the new councils. He thought a simple resolution appointing certain members of the Council, say the chairman of the Finance committee or of the water committee, to take charge of the books, papers, etc., of the Water Commissioner.

After some discussion Mr. Burgwin was asked to put his suggestion in the shape of a resolution.

Mr. Phillips positively declined to undertake the duties.

THE ORDINANCE ADOPTED.

Mr. Hunter thought that the only way to arrange the difficulty and to avoid the delay was to elect commissioners to fill the vacancy now existing, and also when the new commissioner may be passed, they will be unseated from their positions, and the new arrangement would then be perfected.

Mr. Phillips presented an ordinance appointing Mr. Lloyd and Mr. McCune to take charge of the water works, and to perform such duties as may be necessary.

Messrs. McCune and Lloyd said they could not take the position.

Mr. Riddell thought the matter could lay over until a definite arrangement is made by the new Councils.

Mr. Phillips stated that after the resignation of the Commissioner had been accepted a committee was appointed to take charge of books, papers, &c.

Mr. Kirk thought the only way to do was to elect five persons as a Water Commission until this matter could be remedied by proper legislation.

Mr. Dorley thought that during the brief period this committee would have, it would take several days to see what they should do, or can lawfully do.

Considerable discussion occurred on the subject, and there appeared to be a great diversity of opinion as to what could or should be done.

Mr. Hunter moved to amend the ordinance by adding a repealing clause, which was accepted.

On motion of Mr. McCune, it was also amended concerning the employment of a clerk.

Mr. Burgwin withdrew his resolution, both of his colleagues having declined.

On motion of Mr. Littell the rules were suspended for the purpose of passing the ordinance finally, and the ordinance was then passed.

Mr. Phillips presented a communication from the Finance Committee, conveying a petition from S. P. Shriver, asking for a reduction of tax under the equalization ordinance, in the Twenty-third ward. Referred to the Committee on appeals, with power to act.

THE CITY HALL COMMISSION.

The Chair next had read a report from the City Hall Commission, reporting forth that during the year there has been paid into the city treasury $30,492 84, and that the disbursements were $25,625. The furnishing account is now in charge of the contro ler at the end of the fiscal year, June 1st, at which time the commission will begin to hand over their trust. The report was accepted.

Mr. Phillips stated that a full statement is being prepared which would be ready for presentation to the Court for approval. This report would be presented next month.

The clerk also read a communication from the controller, covering a recommendation of the Finance Committee that the commission of the City Attorney be abated from the "Church Home." Accepted and adopted.

The regular order of business was then proceeded with.

Mr. Elder—An ordinance authorizing the Diamond Savings Bank to increase the side walk at Union street and fifth avenue. Passed, finally.

Also, an ordinance relative to the official newspapers. Laid over.

Mr. Watson—An ordinance allowing the erection of an iron clad building on Penn avenue. Passed, finally.

Also, an ordinance creating the office of Examining Cashier for the city of Pittsburgh. Referred to the Finance Committee.

Mr. Thompson—An ordinance making an additional (80) precinct in the Twenty-first ward.

On motion of Mr. Aiken, referred to the Ordinance Committee.

Mr. Scully—A resolution requiring all Commissioners of street improvements to give bond in $25,000. Referred to the Ordinance Committee, with instructions to report an ordinance.

Mr. Helbes, a resolution for a warrant for A. Lezius, $6 25. Passed finally. Referred to Property Committee.

THE NATION BANK SETTLEMENT.

Mr. Phillips from the Finance Committee, stated that the committee appointed to examine property offered as security by the stockholders of the Nation Trust Company, had not yet completed their labors. Report of progress accepted.

Formal reports of regular committees covering recommendations, receipts, expenditures, &c., as already published from committee meetings were presented and accepted.

Mr. McCarthy presented the report of the committee appointed to audit the accounts of the Board of Guardians of the Poor. It states that the accounts have been found to be correct. Accepted.

The ordinance for the improvement of Dallas avenue, passed in C. C. and previously laid over in this branch, was taken up.

Mr. Aiken offered an amendment changing the points covering distance of the improvement.

Mr. Rafferty moved to lay the ordinance on the table, on the ground that there are now enough bonds out for street improvements. The motion carried.

The ordinance providing for a change in the grade of Wylie avenue being taken up,

Mr. Jeremy moved to lay upon the table.

The ayes and nays being called on a motion to suspend the rules, resulted: Ayes 36, nays 18; so the rules were not suspended.

THE NEW CITY CHARTER.

The resolution from C. C. requesting the Governor to sign the new city charter, being next was objected to by Messrs. Jeremy and Watson, because of the reported changes made in the transactions from at Harrisburg, by changing the word "owner" to "occupant" in the section relating to the Eagleswood tract of the Water Commission.

Mr. Fetterman and Mr. Durling urged that the new charter should be had if possible.

Mr. Cha mers opposed it, and demanded that the ayes and nays were necessary.

Mr. Burgwin held that a simple majority would be enough to pass the resolution, and no made a motion that it be passed.

Mr. Riddell spoke against the new charter as too cumbersome and likely to bring forth such evils as have been experienced.

Mr. Rafferty moved to lay the resolution upon the table, which was seconded by Mr. Chalmers.

Mr. Burgwin urged that the charter was a great improvement upon that we now have and any objections that may be in it can hereafter be remedied. He thought it simplified our financial system, and the simple question allowing or providing for consolidation of the two cities, was a good feature.

The motion to lay up n the table was lost, and the motion to concur with C. C. prevailed by a vote of 28 to 18. The chair appointed Messrs. Fetterman and J. H. Jones on the part of S. C.

MR. PHILLIPS EXCUSED.

Mr. Phillips—Mr. C. airman, before we adjourn I would like to say a few words as not to time on work of this sub-committee. I understand my name is put on as one of th a sub-committee to prepare an ordinance regulating the Water Commission. Is that so?

The chairman—Yes sir.

Mr. Phillips—Then I cannot most respectfully decline to serve. I have not the time. I would do anything I could for the city, but the time necessary to attend to the business would be more of a sacrifice than I could feel justified in making. I would, therefore, respectfully ask to be excused.

By a vote of Council Mr. Phillips was then excused from serving on the committee.

A PERSONAL EXPLANATION.

Mr. Phillips—I would also like to make an explanation. You are aware of the position I took when the ordinance was being framed. I opposed the raising of a commission from the City Councils on the ground that they could not devote the time necessary to it to make it a success. It was not because I did not think members of this Council could fill the position well as any persons outside. I believed that there were as good, as honest and as faithful and as intelligent men in these Councils at the time as those were outside.

NO REFLECTIONS UPON COUNCILS.

It was reported in one of the evening papers that I had reflected upon Councils. The position I took when this ordinance was before us was that the commissioners could not possibly spare the time necessary to carry it out and make it a success without very materially injuring their business. That is all I have to say upon that.

I also noticed in the same article an assertion that I was displeased with the election held here for City Controller. The word is not the word preferred, as my vote shows, to have had a man elected. But so far as Mr. Snodgrass is concerned, I can endorse him as an honest, upright, and faithful man, and I believe he will make a good Controller. We ought to have selected in the city of Pittsburgh. But, sir, I voted against him because I thought it would be better for Councils to elect a new man, but not because I considered that new man his superior. I merely want to make these statements to clear myself right on the record. That is all I have to say.

MR. KIRK'S ARRAIGNMENT.

The report of the Kirk-Dempster Investigating Committee presented in C. C. was read by the clerk.

Mr. Littell moved to concur with the action of the Common branch.

Mr. Kirk said he had no objection to accepting the report and ordering it to be filed. He thought, however, the occasion was one of the most remarkable ever presented to Councils. He thought it was a fair inference that charges had been under the testimony as any thing could be. He thought the committee had acted most unfairly toward him, and had acted apparently corrupt in the interest of the accused. He held that the investigation was out of order and important testimony was crowded back. The speaker had acted in this matter with a good motive—in the public interest—he had not a personal spite or feeling against the Engineer. During the past summer, having leisure, the speaker was attend the Engineer's office a good deal and there found that there were many of the charges there investigated by Mr. Dempster. He then appeared before the Survey Committee and put some of the matters to the engineer and received a result in reply. Mr. Kirk then proceeded to review the testimony of Mr. Dempster, and claimed that it was clear as a proving a case that Mr. Dempster engineer had taken money belonging to the city and had put it into the Treasury as his oath and his city required him to do.

When Mr. Kirk had spoken ten minutes, several members called upon him to desist, as the hour for closing further, claiming that it was a personal speech. Mr. Kirk held the floor, however, as he was given permission to proceed. Subsequent interruptions in the shape of questions were also made.

Mr. Kirk said that the public had a right, and that further testimony be taken.

Mr. H. B. Hamilton, for one am willing to have the case opened, and that Mr. Kirk be given all the time he wishes to prove Mr. Dempster a dishonest man.

Mr. Kirk—Well do that, and even before the same committee. If by bring such evidence that even they must admit his guilt. I move that the matter be referred back for further testimony. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hamilton.

Mr. E. P. Jones took the floor and said that the committee had given Mr. Kirk opportunity and that fairly before the public. He could not see that Mr. Dempster. He claimed that this was not having on the floor of Mr. Kirk, and that he had in his statement did not stick to facts, and reported none in favor of the engineer. He thought it was injudicious at any rate to refer the matter back to be immediately pay it over to the city treasury, where it should be. Mr. D. upon acknowledged the receipt of the money, but that he was under the impression paying over as soon as the accounts with the Commissioners were closed.

Mr. Lloyd said that he had insisted on every opportunity being given to show the truth in this matter. He thought the report of the committee was correct. He believed Mr. Dempster is an honest man, and that charges were unknown, although he acknowledged there are irregularities. The only evidence produced was Mr. Dempster, and these he brought in himself. Mr. Lloyd, in the course of his speaker, exonerated the engineer. Mr. Lloyd appealed to Councils not to condemn and injure the engineer in the manner.

Mr. Littell said he had not advised the employment of the engineer, but found fault with the time he had been on the city pay roll, and all this work done by them, the appropriation would be four or five hundred, as the money received could only be used for the general fund. Mr. Littell then severely denounced Mr. Kirk's course.

Mr. Riddell arose to a point of order, that it was outrageous and disgraceful for members of Councils to forget themselves and indulge in personalities as he says he would.

Mr. Aiken thought the report of the committee a fair and impartial one.

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The report of the Kirk-Dempster Investigating Committee presented in C. C. was read by the clerk.

Mr. Littell moved to concur with the action of the Common branch.

Mr. Kirk said he had no objection to accepting the report and ordering it to be filed. He thought, however, the occasion was one of the most remarkable ever presented to Councils. He thought it was a fair inference that charges had been under the testimony as any thing could be. He thought the committee had acted most unfairly toward him, and had acted apparently corrupt in the interest of the accused. He held that the investigation was out of order and important testimony was crowded back. The speaker had acted in this matter with a good motive—in the public interest—he had not a personal spite or feeling against the Engineer. During the past summer, having leisure, the speaker was attend the Engineer's office a good deal and there found that there were many of the charges there investigated by Mr. Dempster. He then appeared before the Survey Committee and put some of the matters to the engineer and received a result in reply. Mr. Kirk then proceeded to review the testimony of Mr. Dempster, and claimed that it was clear as a proving a case that Mr. Dempster engineer had taken money belonging to the city and had put it into the Treasury as his oath and his city required him to do.

When Mr. Kirk had spoken ten minutes, several members called upon him to desist, as the hour for closing further, claiming that it was a personal speech. Mr. Kirk held the floor, however, as he was given permission to proceed. Subsequent interruptions in the shape of questions were also made.

Mr. Kirk said that the public had a right, and that further testimony be taken.

Mr. H. B. Hamilton, for one am willing to have the case opened, and that Mr. Kirk be given all the time he wishes to prove Mr. Dempster a dishonest man.

Mr. Kirk—Well do that, and even before the same committee. If by bring such evidence that even they must admit his guilt. I move that the matter be referred back for further testimony. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hamilton.

Mr. E. P. Jones took the floor and said that the committee had given Mr. Kirk opportunity and that fairly before the public. He could not see that Mr. Dempster. He claimed that this was not having on the floor of Mr. Kirk, and that he had in his statement did not stick to facts, and reported none in favor of the engineer. He thought it was injudicious at any rate to refer the matter back to be immediately pay it over to the city treasury, where it should be. Mr. D. upon acknowledged the receipt of the money, but that he was under the impression paying over as soon as the accounts with the Commissioners were closed.

Mr. Lloyd said that he had insisted on every opportunity being given to show the truth in this matter. He thought the report of the committee was correct. He believed Mr. Dempster is an honest man, and that charges were unknown, although he acknowledged there are irregularities. The only evidence produced was Mr. Dempster, and these he brought in himself. Mr. Lloyd, in the course of his speaker, exonerated the engineer. Mr. Lloyd appealed to Councils not to condemn and injure the engineer in the manner.

Mr. Littell said he had not advised the employment of the engineer, but found fault with the time he had been on the city pay roll, and all this work done by them, the appropriation would be four or five hundred, as the money received could only be used for the general fund. Mr. Littell then severely denounced Mr. Kirk's course.

Mr. Riddell arose to a point of order, that it was outrageous and disgraceful for members of Councils to forget themselves and indulge in personalities as he says he would.

Mr. Aiken thought the report of the committee a fair and impartial one.

FURTHER INVESTIGATION.

More About the Water Commission Business.

Alleged Frauds in Contracts.

THE END NOT YET

Astonishing Statements and Severe Charges.

The Finance Committee met last evening for the purpose of investigating the matter of water works contracts as demanded by Civil Engineer Kennedy in consequence of the testimony of Mechanical Engineer Lowry. There was barely a quorum of the committee present, and Mr. Phillips occupied the chair. The testimony elicited, which is very strong, is substantially as follows:

EX CITY ATTORNEY SLAGLE ON THE STAND.

Mr. Jacob F. Slagle was first sworn, and testified that at the time the contract for the engine of the pumping house was awarded he was City Solicitor. The contract and specifications were brought to him by Mr. Joseph L. Lowry. He said he did not know much about the specifications as he only approved a business than a legal nature, but in the contract he found several errors and made a number of material alterations. He said Mr. Lowry told him that he not not want any royalty on the engines and did not desire anything in the kind incorporated in the contract, but the witness had no recollection in connection with Mr. Lowry and Mr. Kennedy that Mr. Lowry had conveyed his patent on the engine to his sister-in-law, and the contract as passed and signed by him made provision for royalty. He had several conversations with Mr. Lowry on the ways in the progress of my work. He could not answer definite question in regard to the matter, frequently a week would go by without getting a reply from him as he said he had to consult others. He had no objection to the specifications as they passed by before Mr. Lowry could get so one to bid on the contract as he was not ready to let the work. He said that after while he would be a pretty good judge of stone. I do not consider him a judge of stone work. He has not been in the habit of going to the building and cross section the ground before it was broken, with a tape line. I think I would not do it with a tape line, that it would have to be done with instruments, and then he would not be a judge of a little of an inch. Mr. Lowry told him that he knew Hartupee well, and that if I would tell him ours, there would be no necessity in cutting each other's throats. I refused to tell him Mr. Lowry said before closing our bids that fifteen per cent must be added to the bids as a fee or royalty for the patentee. The Water Commission was not to receive them. Mr. Lowry did not specify what Mr. Ross said. I put in our bid, and